Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 220 | MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com 50¢

CHC sees federalization the answer to doctor shortage. PAGE 6

Since lifting of restriction, CUC hires over 10 people. PAGE 7

DHS rule grants E-2 NMI investor status

- Re-entry into NMI would require visa from US embassy
- Comments due by Oct. 14, 2009

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A man, right, walks in front of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Service office at the TSL Plaza in Garapan yesterday afternoon. The USCIS announced on Friday that the proposed investor program regulations for the CNMI will be published in the Sept. 14 Federal Register (Tuesday Saipan time).

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Homeland Security is proposing to grant an "E-2 CNMI investor" status to eligible foreign investors in the Commonwealth.

DHS' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Friday the Sept. 14 publication of its proposed investor program regulations, with less than three months

See DHS on Page 4

ON THE NET

- http://www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2009-21967_PI.pdf

Tropical storm warning for Saipan, Tinian

RELATED NEWS

- OAG reminds sellers about price laws. PAGE 9

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A tropical storm warning and a typhoon watch were in effect for Saipan, Tinian and Agrihan at 5pm yesterday as Tropical Storm Choi-Wan continued to move west toward the CNMI and intensifying, the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam said.

But a tropical storm watch for Rota and Guam was cancelled at 2pm yesterday due to a shift in Choi-Wan's ex-

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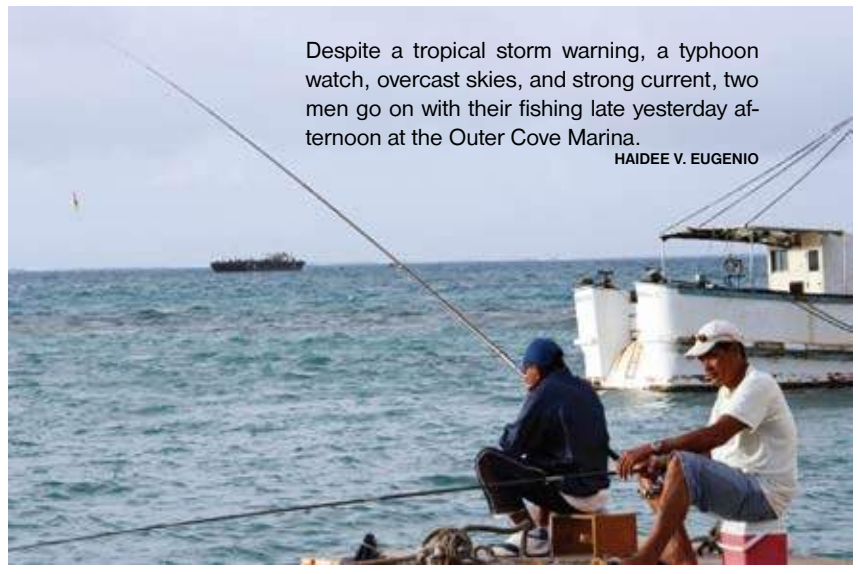

Despite a tropical storm warning, a typhoon watch, overcast skies, and strong current, two men go on with their fishing late yesterday afternoon at the Outer Cove Marina.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Q&A

The proposed INVESTOR program rules

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will publish a proposed rule in the Sept. 14, 2009 Federal Register that proposes to recognize a CNMI specific nonimmigrant investor visa classification.

This "E-2 CNMI Investor" status is one of several CNMI specific provisions contained in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, which extends most provisions of

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POLL RESULTS

At this point, do you support a one-year extension in the federalization of local immigration?

Yes	66
No	139
Undecided	2
No opinion	3

Sunday, September 13, 2009

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of September 11, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

'You Lie'
Thousands of protesters marched to the U.S. Capitol to show their disdain for Obama's health care plan.
NATION...Page 15

Emmy Favorite
Is Tina Fey an Emmy winner? You betcha.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Local

INVESTOR

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federal U.S. immigration law to the CNMI.

Q. Why has the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service proposed this rule related to investors?

A. This proposed rule would classify eligible long-term foreign investors in the CNMI as CNMI-only "E-2" nonimmigrant investors. USCIS is proposing temporary regulatory provisions due to the unique nature of CNMI investors. This will provide a means through which an alien may transition from status under the laws of the CNMI to the immigration laws of the United States and to mitigate harm to the CNMI economy by allowing investors in the CNMI who may otherwise not be immediately eligible under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) time to obtain U.S. immigrant or nonimmigrant visa status.

Q. What is the CNMI-only "E-2" nonimmigrant investor status?

A. This proposed rule would establish a temporary status that is unique to the CNMI under which qualified alien foreign investors in the CNMI can be classified as E-2 non-immigrants under U.S. immigration law based upon maintenance of his or her CNMI long-term investor status.

Q. Why will these categories be temporary?

A. The CNRA only provided for this status during the initial transition period, which begins on Nov. 28, 2009 and extends through Dec. 31, 2014.

Q. What is the "E-2 CNMI Investor"?

A. This rule proposes to establish procedures for long-term foreign investors in the CNMI to obtain nonimmigrant status within the E-2 treaty investor classification, notwithstanding the treaty requirements, in accordance with the CNRA. This would be a special status of E-2 investors that is only available to investors in the CNMI and only available to investors who have been granted a qualifying status by the CNMI prior to the transition period, which begins on Nov. 28, 2009. USCIS refers to this special group as "E-2 CNMI Investors."

With E-2 CNMI Investor nonimmigrant status, eligible CNMI investors would be able to remain in the CNMI for an initial period of two years and renewable through the duration of the transition period as investors under E-2 CNMI status, and to exit and enter the CNMI with valid E-2 CNMI Investor visas. The proposed rule is intended to implement one of the CNRA's provisions meant to provide a smooth transition for existing CNMI investors to federal immigration law, as well as to mitigate potential adverse consequences to the CNMI economy during the transition period if the current investors were not eligible for E-2 treaty investor classification under the INA.

Q. What happens at the end of the transition period?

A. At the end of the transition period, E-2 CNMI Investors and qualifying spouses and children must qualify for and obtain an appropriate immigrant or nonimmigrant status under the INA in order to remain in the CNMI or to enter the CNMI after a departure.

Q. Will any extensions of the transition period, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, affect eligibility for the CNMI-only investor visas?

A. No. The CNMI-only investor

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Celebrate "Oktoberfest" at Kili Cafe & Terrace

Hyatt Regency Saipan and Becks Beer, the number one selling beer in America, present a weeklong celebration of German cuisine in Kili Cafe & Terrace. Sit back to catch up with friends and enjoy Chef Colombo's exquisite Bavarian Oktoberfest buffet with Becks Beer included in the price.

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INVESTOR

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status will cease to exist at the end of the transition period. Although the Secretary of Labor may extend the CNMI-only transitional worker program, the investor provisions will terminate on Dec. 31, 2014, regardless of whether the transitional worker provisions are extended.

Q. What INA categories can these individuals apply for after the transition period?

A. That will depend upon individual circumstances, but investors will have the 5-year transition period to work on this. In some cases, for example, such individuals may be able to qualify for nonimmigrant status based upon employment or be able to adjust to lawful permanent residence based upon family relationships.

Q. What date is the end of the transition period?

A. The transition program will last through Dec. 31, 2014.

Q. What happens to dependents of E-2 CNMI Investors during the transition period?

A. During the transition period, spouses and children are eligible for derivative status based on the grant of status to an E-2 CNMI Investor. Dependents would have to follow the normal procedures applicable to other non-immigrants with respect to extensions or changes of status.

Q. Who is eligible to be classified as an E-2 CNMI Investor?

A. As required by the CNRA, USCIS proposes that eligible investors are those who:

- were admitted to the CNMI in long-term investor status under CNMI immigration law before the transition program effective date;
- have continuously maintained residence in the CNMI under long-term investor status;
- maintain the investment(s) that formed the basis for the CNMI long-term investor status;
- and are otherwise admissible to the United States under the INA.

Q. Which current CNMI Investor categories qualify?

A. It is proposed that those admitted to the CNMI in the following long-term investor classifications under CNMI immigration law will qualify:

- Foreign Investor Entry Permit, with a foreign investment certificate issued by the CNMI;
- Retiree Investor, with a foreign retiree investment certificate issued by the CNMI; and
- Long-Term Business Entry Permit, with a Long-Term Business Certificate issued by the CNMI.

The rule proposes that such individuals must have an approval letter issued by the CNMI government certifying the acceptance of an approved investment subject to the CNMI's minimum investment criteria and standards for the CNMI-permit categories listed above. The proposed rule does not provide E-2 CNMI Investor status for individuals who were in the CNMI under the two-year, non-renewable retiree investor program limited to Japanese nationals.

Q. How did USCIS decide which categories will qualify under the proposed rule?

A. The CNRA refers to admission in "long-term investor" status under the laws of the CNMI when creating the E-2 CNMI Investor status. So, only CNMI categories that mandated a fixed minimum threshold amount of investment and are renewable over a period of multiple years (and therefore "long-term") were considered to be "long-term investor" statuses for this proposed rule, namely the three categories listed above (Long-Term Business Investor, Foreign Investor, and Retiree Investor.)

Q. How many people are currently in these three CNMI long-term investor categories?

A. It is estimated that there are approximately 500 foreign investors in the CNMI long-term investor categories.

Q. Which current CNMI categories dealing with investments are not considered eligible for E-2 CNMI Investor status under the proposed rule?

A. The following are not considered eligible for this visa under the proposed rule:

- The sub-category of the Retiree Investors specifically limited to a two-year, non-renewable investment by Japanese nationals; and
- Short- and Regular-Term Business Entry Permits

Q. Why is the sub-category of the Retiree Investor, specifically limited to Japanese retirees, not eligible under the proposed rule?

A. The proposed rule does not include this category, as this is not a "long-term investor." The CNMI permit for the two-year program for Japanese retirees is non-renewable, and therefore not considered "long-term."

Q. What can these Japanese retirees do once their permit expires?

A. Japanese retirees in the CNMI would need to seek either a nonimmigrant or immigrant status under the immigration laws of the United States.

Q. Why are those with Short- and Regular-Term Business Entry Permits not included?

A. Aliens lawfully admitted under the CNMI Short-Term Business Entry Permit or the Regular-Term Business Entry Permit categories are not included in the proposed rule because these permits are not long-term, nor do they require investments.

Q. What can these individuals with short- and regular-term business permits do?

A. Those conducting business on a short-term and/or regular basis may be eligible to apply for other nonimmigrant classifications under the immigration laws of the United States.

Q. Will foreigners with pending CNMI investor applications be eligible for the new E-2 CNMI Investor status?

A. Under the proposed rule, foreigners who have not been admitted by the CNMI as eligible CNMI investors prior to the beginning of the transition period are not eligible for classification as E-2 CNMI Investors. Therefore, aliens who have investor applications pending with the CNMI as of the transition program effective date will not be eligible for E-2 CNMI Investor status.

Q. Will anyone with an approved investor application be eligible for the E-2 CNMI Investor status?

A. Under the CNRA and the proposed rule, aliens who have not been admitted as eligible CNMI investors prior to the beginning of the transition period are not eligible for classification as E-2 CNMI Investors. Therefore, those who have approved investor applications but who have not been admitted to the CNMI as of the transition program effective date will not be eligible for E-2 CNMI Investor status.

Q. What is the "continuous maintenance of residence" that is required for the E-2 CNMI Investor visa? What if an investor traveled regularly outside CNMI?

A. As defined in the proposed rule, "continuous maintenance of residence in the CNMI" means residence in the CNMI from the date that an alien obtained his or her CNMI status through the future date on which USCIS grants the new E-2 CNMI Investor status. This is not the same as continuous physical presence; so, an investor would not need to have remained in the CNMI for the entire period in order to be deemed to have maintained continuous residence. The proposed rule provides that an investor must have been physically present in the CNMI during

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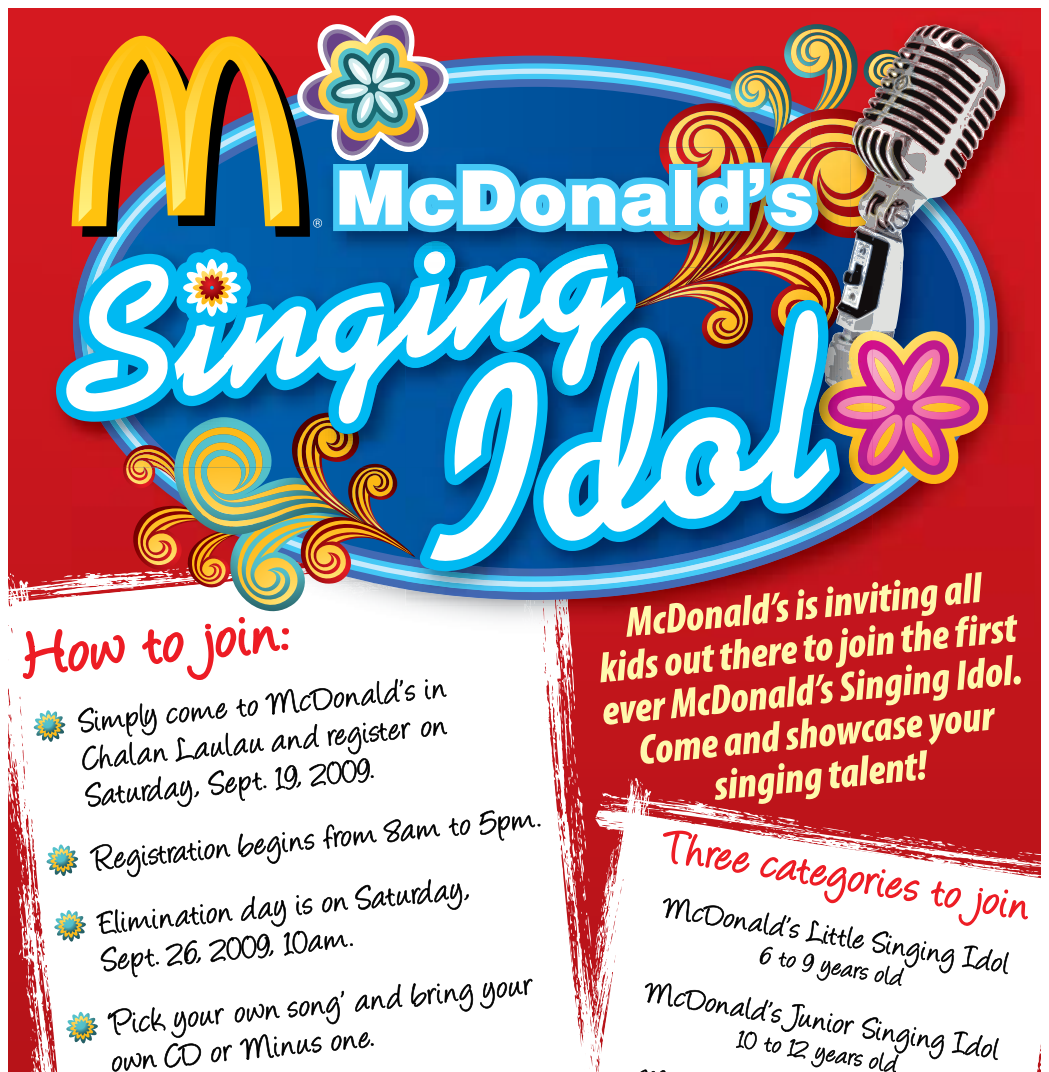
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Simply come to McDonald's in Chalan Laulau and register on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009.
Registration begins from 8am to 5pm.
Elimination day is on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009, 10am.
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September 26
Lunch/Dinner Specials
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at least half the time for which continuous residence is required. Any single absence of more than six months, unless the individual is able to demonstrate that he or she did not abandon his or her residence by such absence, or any single absence of more than one year, will break continuity of residence.

Q. Can an investor lose his or her status?

A. Yes. According to the proposed rule, an investor could lose immigration status if he or she does not maintain the investment(s) that formed the basis for admission. To establish that an investor is maintaining the investment or investments that formed the basis for admission to the CNMI, the proposed rule would require each applicant to provide specific evidence demonstrating that the investor is in compliance with the terms upon which the CNMI investor certificate was issued.

Q. According to the proposed rule, what type of proof will an applicant for E-2 CNMI Investor have to provide in relation to his/her investments?

A. All documentation previously submitted in each application to the CNMI government for investor classification under CNMI law should be submitted as part of E-2 CNMI petitions to USCIS. The submission also should include the relevant CNMI-issued Investment Certificate, as well as the additional support as detailed in the proposed regulation.

Q. Is there a time constraint on when people can apply for a change of status?

A. Applications for this change in status to E-2 CNMI Investor status by aliens who were eligible for E-2 CNMI Investor status on the transition program effective date but who obtained other valid nonimmigrant status, would have to be filed by Nov. 27, 2011—within the two-year filing period for obtaining initial grants of E-2 CNMI Investor status. E-2 CNMI Investors may apply for changes of status to

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DHS

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before the federalization of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28.

Only those who have been admitted as eligible CNMI investors prior to Nov. 28, among other eligibility requirements, are qualified to apply for an E-2 CNMI investor status.

An E-2 CNMI investor who exits the Commonwealth needs to obtain an E-2 CNMI investor visa from a U.S. embassy or consulate in order to be re-admitted to the CNMI, regardless of nationality.

"USCIS approval of E-2 CNMI investor status provides status while present in the CNMI, but does not preclude the requirement of a visa for admission to the CNMI," said DHS in the 55-page notice of proposed rulemaking and supplementary information to the proposed rule.

The proposed investor program rule will be formally published on the Sept. 14 Federal Register. (http://www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2009-21967_PI.pdf)

DHS has set an Oct. 14 deadline for submission of comments to the proposed regulations.

Another set of regulations related to the CNMI-only transitional worker program has yet to be released.

Limited application period

Foreign investors would be required to apply for an E-2 CNMI investor status either before Nov. 28, or within the first two years following the start of the transition period.

"USCIS would reject an application filed after the two-year period," said DHS.

The five-year transition period starts on Nov. 28, 2009 and ends on Dec. 13, 2014.

The original start of the transition period was June 1, 2009 but DHS pushed it back by 180 days, the maximum allowed by law.

The current processing fee for an E-2 CNMI investor status is $320, plus an $80 biometrics fee for a total of $400.

Currently, the CNMI government charges foreign investors $1,000 every two years or $500 a year for an investor status.

The E-2 CNMI investor status is one of several CNMI-specific provisions contained in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 or Public Law 110-229, which extends most provisions of federal U.S. immigration law to the CNMI.

The proposed special status of E-2 investors would allow eligible CNMI investors to remain in the CNMI for the duration of the transition period under E-2 CNMI investor status, and to exit and enter the CNMI with valid E-2 CNMI investor visas.

DHS proposes that the E-2 CNMI investor visa be issued for two years and be renewable. Derivative visas would be available for spouses and children of the primary applicant.

"These temporary provisions are proposed to provide for an orderly transition from the current CNMI permit system to the immigration laws of the U.S., to lessen potential effects on the CNMI economy, and to give foreign long-term investors time to identify and obtain appropriate U.S. immigrant or nonimmigrant status," said USCIS on Friday.

At the end of the transition period, E-2 CNMI investors and qualifying spouses and children must qualify for and obtain an appropriate immigrant or non-immigrant status under the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to remain in the CNMI or to enter the CNMI after departure.

'At long last'

Since Saturday morning here, CNMI government officials and the private sector, including Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski and members, have started reviewing DHS' 55-page notice of proposed rulemaking and supplementary information.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said "at long last," DHS made public these proposed regulations.

"I will be reviewing these regulations carefully and listening to your feedback," he said in his weekly newsletter.

Sablan earlier said he's now seeking a one-year delay in federalization, only because DHS is not ready to implement P.L. 110-229 or the federalization law, citing the absence of regulations, lack of funding and budget request, and physical preparations in the six ports of entry in the CNMI, among other things.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said yesterday the Fitial administration will review the regulations and would comment later.

"This is long overdue and we still need worker regulations," Reyes said.

CNMI Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, who is currently in Hawaii for a U.S. Department of the Interior training, said he will comment as soon as he has a chance to read through the regulations.

The CNMI Department of Commerce gave foreign investors holding long-term business certificates until Aug. 21 to apply for a renewal by submitting an application at least 90 days prior to the expiration of their long-term business entry permit. At least 81 foreign investors beat the deadline.

Commerce said the Aug. 21 cutoff date will give the department ample time to review and process the applications so that when federalization starts on Nov. 28, no long-term business certificate application is pending.

DHS said it estimates 500 foreign investors in the CNMI.

Eligibility

The proposed classification includes "long-term investors."

Thus, only those CNMI investor permits that mandated a fixed minimum threshold amount of investment and are renewable over a period of multiple years would be considered to be "long-term investor" statuses.

These include long-term business investors, foreign investors, and retiree investors.

Other CNMI investor permits, including the two-year non-renewable retiree investor program for Japanese and those with short- or regular-term business entry permits, may be eligible to apply for existing nonimmigrant classifications under the Immigration and Nationality Act such as B-1/B-2 visas.

To be eligible, investors:

1. Must have been admitted to the CNMI in long-term investor status under CNMI immigration law before the transition program's effective date;

2. Must have continuously maintained residence in the CNMI under long-term investor status;

3. Currently maintain the investment(s) that formed the basis for the CNMI long-term investor status; and

4. Are otherwise admissible to the United States under INA.

Cost and waiver of fees

To request for an E-2 CNMI investor status, applicants must use the existing Form I-129 (Petitioner for a Nonimmigrant Worker) with Supplement E, as proposed by USCIS.

The current processing fee is $320, plus an $80 biometrics fee.

DHS said a waiver of the $320 fee for filing Form I-129 is normally not permitted under the applicable regulations at 8 CFR 103.7.

But in recognition of adverse economic conditions in the CNMI as compared to many other U.S. places, and because of the inclusion of some retirees in this new nonimmigrant category and the likely participation by a number of proprietors of small businesses with CNMI long-term business entry permits, DHS said its proposed rule allows a waiver of the fee in cases where the alien is able to substantiate that he or she is unable to pay the prescribed fee.

"Currently there is no fee-waiver provision for Form I-129 and this rule is proposing a specific waiver provision limited to investors under this rule," DHS said.

But while such waiver of fees is inconsistent with a benefit based upon a monetary investment, the CNMI E-2 Investor program proposed in this rule differs from the current E-2 program in that retiree investors are eligible.

"The waiver provision is limited to those who can make a showing of inability to pay. USCIS believes that some CNMI E-2 Investor eligible retiree investors may have invested the majority of their savings in their investment residences, may be living on fixed incomes, and may qualify for waivers," the department said.

Applicants in the CNMI will also have to submit the $80 biometric service fee, which is also "waivable" for inability to pay under current USCIS regulations.

Public participation

DHS invites interested persons to participate in the rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments in all aspects of the proposed rule.

"Comments that will provide the most assistance to DHS will reference a specific portion of the proposed rule, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include data, information or authority that support such recommended change," DHS said in the supplementary information.

The deadline for submitting comments is on Oct. 14, 2009.

All submissions must include "USCIS" and "DHS Docket No. USCIS-2008-0035" and can be submitted in one of the following ways:

1. Internet, at the Federal e-Rulemaking portal: http://www.regulations.gov;

2. E-mail to USCIS at rfs.regs@dhs.gov and include "DHS Docket No. USCIS- 2008-0035" in subject line; or

3. Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier - Paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions to: Chief, Regulatory Management Division, DHS-USCIS, 111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 3008, Washington, D.C. 20529. Reference "DHS Docket No. USCIS-2008-0035" on the correspondence. Contact telephone number is (202) 272-8377.

The CNMI, a U.S. territory in the western Pacific, has been subject to most U.S. laws for many years. However, it has administered its own immigration system under the terms of its 1976 Covenant with the United States.

On May 8, 2008, former President Bush signed P.L. 110-229. Title VII, 122 Stat. 754, 853 of the law extends U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI with transition provisions unique to the CNMI.

The stated purpose of the CNRA is to ensure effective border control procedures, to properly address national security and homeland security concerns by extending U.S. immigration law to the CNMI, phasing-out the CNMI's nonresident contract worker program while minimizing to the greatest extent practicable the potential adverse economic and fiscal effects of that phase out, and to maximize the CNMI's potential for future economic and business growth.

TROPICAL

From Page 1

pected track—further north than previously forecast.

A tropical storm warning means tropical storm-force winds of 39 miles per hour or more are occurring or expected to occur within 24 hours.

A tropical storm warning in conjunction with a typhoon watch means tropical storm-force winds are expected and typhoon-force winds of 74 mph or more are possible within 24 hours.

At 4pm yesterday, Choi-wan, Chinese for "colorful cloud," was centered near latitude 15.7 degrees north and longitude 149.3 degrees east.

This was about 245 miles east of Tinian and Saipan, 285 miles southeast of Pagan, 295 miles east-northeast of Rota, 320 miles southeast of Agrihan, and 340 miles east-northeast of Guam.

Choi-Wan was moving west toward the CNMI at 9 mph.

NWS expected the tropical storm to move in the same general direction with a slight decrease in speed during the next 24 hours.

Choi-Wan was expected to pass a little north of Saipan late Monday afternoon.

Maximum sustained winds were 60 mph. Tropical storm-force winds extended outward up to 120 miles from the center in the southeast semi-circle and 60 miles from the center in the northwest semi-circle.

Choi-Wan was expected to continue intensifying over the next 24 hours.

"This suggests that winds on Tinian and Saipan may be a little less than previously thought," said NWS at 2pm yesterday.

Local heavy rainfall of 3 to 6 inches through Tuesday is also possible, said NWS.

Be prepared

The CNMI Emergency Management Office urged small craft to stay in port and residents to fill cars with gas.

"Purchase any items used from your typhoon /disaster kits. These may include batteries, non-perishable food, water and anything else you might be in short supply during an emergency. Bring in or tie down loose objects outdoors," EMO said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in a special weather advisory, encouraged the public, including the northern islands of Agrihan, Alamagan and Pagan to closely follow the progress of Choi-Wan through EMO and local media sources.

As of press time yesterday, there has been no notice of suspension of classes in public schools and closure of non-essential government agencies today.

At the same time, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, in a statement, expressed hope that Choi-Wan "will pass by without becoming a typhoon and without injury to any person or damage to property."

"But in the event that a typhoon does strike, my office is prepared to help bring federal resources to the aid of the Northern Mariana Islands," said Sablan, who has been tracking the storm using the services of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison Office for Region IX in Oakland, California. FEMA is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

"I appreciate the seriousness with which FEMA is taking this situation," Sablan said.

Residents can anticipate heavy rain and increased winds by late Monday afternoon through Thursday morning.

Those in low-lying and flood-prone areas should begin to clear debris that may clog drainage system. Motorists should also exercise extreme caution as these conditions may also create unsafe driving conditions in the next few days.

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any other nonimmigrant or immigrant visa classifications for which they may qualify anytime during the transition period.

Q. When can CNMI investors apply for the E-2 CNMI Investor Visa?

A. The proposed rule would allow applicants to apply for E-2 CNMI Investor status before the Nov. 28, 2009, start of the transition period or within the first two years following the start of the transition period. Although applications would be accepted before Nov. 28, 2009, USCIS would not grant E-2 CNMI Investor status before that date.

Q. What is the final date that applications will be accepted for the E-2 CNMI Investor Visa?

A. The final filing date would be two-year years from the start of the transition period, or Nov. 27, 2011.

Q. What application form must be submitted for the E-2 CNMI Investor Visa?

A. USCIS has proposed that the existing Form I-129, "Petitioner for a Nonimmigrant Worker," with Supplement E will be the application form used for requesting E-2 CNMI Investor status.

Q. What is the cost of the application?

A. The current processing fee for Form I-129 is $320. In addition, the biometrics fee is $80.

Q. Where should the application be filed?

A. U.S. immigration applications are filed by mail, per the related instructions as found on-line at www.uscis.gov. It is proposed that, to file, the applicant must be present in the CNMI or outside the United States at the time his or her application is filed with USCIS. Upon approval, an alien outside the CNMI would need to obtain an E-2 CNMI Investor nonimmigrant visa at a United States Embassy or consulate abroad to be admitted to the CNMI as an E-2 CNMI Investor on or after the transition program effective date.

Q. Is a fee waiver available?

A. Yes, this proposal would allow for a fee waiver.

Q. Isn't it inconsistent to offer a fee waiver for an "investor" who would have to make a relatively significant monetary investment to qualify for the visa?

A. Waiver of the current $320 fee for filing Form I-129 is normally not permitted. However, USCIS is proposing a waiver limited to investors under this rule in the CNMI due to the belief that some CNMI E-2 Investor eligible retiree investors may have invested the majority of their savings in their investment residences, may be living on fixed incomes, and may qualify for waivers. The waiver provision is limited to those who show inability to pay.

Applicants in the CNMI would also have to submit the $80 biometric service fee; this fee is waivable for inability to pay under current USCIS regulations.

Q. If an application is denied, what recourse does the applicant have?

A. It is proposed that, as with other adjudications of Form I-129, denial of an E-2 CNMI Investor application may be appealed to the USCIS Administrative Appeals Office for agency review of the denial.

Q. What would this proposed rule do about the dependents of E-2 CNMI Investors?

A. The proposed rule would extend E-2 CNMI Investor status to the spouse and children of each principal E-2 CNMI Investor if they accompany or follow-to-join the principal alien. To qualify for this status, the spouse and children must be otherwise admissible to the United States.

Q. What might make the dependents inadmissible under the INA?

A. Generally, the INA makes certain aliens inadmissible to the

See INVESTOR on Next Page

Thank you

to all the soldiers
for the sacrifices you make daily
to promote peace and
ensure a bright future for
our children.

To express our appreciation,
all soldiers will be entitled to a
50% discount
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CHC sees federalization the answer to doctor shortage

ANGELO FOR MAYOR

#4
ON THE BALLOT

Who is Angelo Villagomez?

Angelo is the eldest son of Justice Ramon Garrido Villagomez and Donna Marie O'Connor Villagomez.

After receiving his undergraduate education at the University of Richmond and Rollins College he returned to the Commonwealth and has become known for his community work with Beautify CNMI and other environmental organizations.

He is an active member of the Rotary Club of Saipan and referees for the youth soccer league on weekends.

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By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Public Health Secretary Pete Untalan sees an advantage in the expected federalization of CNMI immigration in terms of resolving the doctor shortage that is plaguing the lone hospital on island.

Untalan disclosed that his department has received a lot of inquiries from off-island doctors as a result of the anticipated implementation of new immigration rules in the Commonwealth on Nov. 28.

These potential physicians may come to the island through the J1 visa waiver category, which will allow them to work in underserved areas in the U.S. with their families.

At present, foreign doctors who go to U.S. medical schools and are trained in U.S.-accredited facilities have to go back to their countries and serve there for a number of years.

"But now, if they are willing to serve a medically underserved area in the U.S., they will be allowed to do that through the J1 visa waiver program," Untalan said.

Without the visa waiver program, physicians must wait for three to four years before they could work elsewhere.

"With the federalization in November, that's the only way they can participate [through that category]," he said.

Untalan said they're looking forward to these "possibilities," which will address the ongoing shortage of physicians in the hospital.

The Commonwealth Health Center has only 32 physicians at present.

It was reported that the hospital is short of four physicians: one in internal medicine and three at the pediatrics department.

Untalan said a lot of medical students go to the U.S. but return to their countries after graduating because their families, without visas, could not live with them.

"Now with this provision, they can work and keep their families intact here. This is an opportunity for us [at CHC]," Untalan said.

Untalan admitted that their choices are limited when it comes to hiring physicians. Although CHC regularly refers some patients to the Philippines for treatment, he said the CNMI cannot hire doctors from that country due to the standards and requirements mandated by the federal government. CHC, which receives Medicare and Medicaid funding, is required to hire U.S.-trained doctors.

Among the factors that discourage physicians from coming to the CNMI, according to Untalan, is the uncompetitive salary offered by the government as a result of declining revenues and resources.

Untalan said the current lack of doctors in the hospital can be augmented by services from the private sector. He is in favor of providing reimbursement for their services.

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United States based upon various grounds. For example, certain criminal convictions would make an alien inadmissible to the United States.

Q. For how long would the E-2 CNMI Investor visa be valid?

A. The proposed rule makes the initial admission period two years. Upon approval of their application(s) for derivative status, the spouse and minor children accompanying or following-to-join an E-2 CNMI Investor would be admitted for the same period that the principal alien is in valid E-2 CNMI Investor status.

Q. What happens to dependents if an E-2 CNMI Investor temporarily departs the CNMI?

A. It is proposed that the derivative status of the dependent spouse and children would not be affected, provided that the familial relationship continues to exist and the principal remains eligible for admission as an E-2 CNMI Investor.

Q. How would work authorizations be handled according to the proposed rule?

A. According to the proposed rule, all E-2 CNMI Investor principal and spousal employment authorization is limited to employment in the CNMI. Certain investors and their spouses would be eligible to work in the CNMI:

- The E-2 CNMI Investor is authorized to work for a specific employer determined by the long-term investor status under CNMI law on which the grant of E-2 CNMI Investor status is based.
- The spouse of an E-2 CNMI Investor may request employment authorization after he or she lawfully obtains E-2 CNMI Investor status and lawfully enters the CNMI.
- Work authorization is not permitted for children of E-2 CNMI Investors.
- Neither E-2 CNMI Investors with status under a Retiree Investment Permit, nor their spouses, are work-authorized because the CNMI does not currently allow work-authorization for such retiree investors.

Q. Can E-2 CNMI Investors change employers?

A. Yes, the proposed rule would allow investors to change employers. However, a new Form I-129 and Supplement E would have to be filed with USCIS if there are any substantive changes in the terms or conditions under which an individual originally qualified for E-2 CNMI Investor status.

Q. What if an individual changes employers without filing with USCIS?

A. An unauthorized change of employment to a new employer would result in the individual falling out of lawful status.

Q. Would E-2 CNMI Investors be able to apply for extensions?

A. Yes. This proposed rule allows for extensions of E-2 CNMI Investor status until the end of the transition period, in two-year increments. This is the same increment allowed for extensions of

See INVESTOR on Next Page

Since lifting of restriction, CUC hires over 10 people

INVESTOR

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stay for E-2 nonimmigrants in the remainder of the United States.

Q. What will be required for an extension of stay?

A. To apply for an extension of stay, the proposal is for an E-2 CNMI Investor to file with USCIS an application for extension of stay, with required accompanying documents, in accordance with the instructions on Form I-129.

Q. Can an E-2 CNMI Investor travel throughout the United States based on this visa?

A. No. E-2 CNMI Investor status as proposed for long-term CNMI investors would be a "CNMI-only" status, as stated by the CNRA. It would not authorize entry to Guam or to any other part of the United States. However, it also would not bar travel if the individual is otherwise authorized and admissible to the United States in another status. So, for example, an E-2 CNMI Investor could make a tourist or business visit to Guam or another part of the United States if he or she has a B-1 or B-2 nonimmigrant visa or is eligible for such travel under an applicable visa waiver program.

Q. What would happen if an E-2 CNMI Investor traveled to another part of the United States?

A. Travel or attempted travel from the CNMI to another part of the United States without the appropriate visa or other authorization would be a violation of the E-2 CNMI Investor status according to the proposed rule. When an individual fails to comply with the conditions of the E-2 CNMI Investor status, he or she will be considered to not be maintaining lawful status under the terms and conditions of E-2 CNMI Investor status and may be removable.

Q. Could an E-2 CNMI Investor travel outside the United States and then return to CNMI?

A. Yes, the proposed rule would allow this. However, aliens who are present in the CNMI under a CNMI-only status, who subsequently depart and desire to return in the same status, would have to get a visa from the Department of State in order to be admitted after the transition program effective date. So, if an E-2 CNMI Investor obtained his or her status from USCIS in the CNMI, he or she would need to obtain an E-2 CNMI Investor visa from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to be readmitted to the CNMI as an E-2 CNMI Investor, regardless of nationality. USCIS approval of E-2 CNMI Investor status provides status while present in the CNMI, but does not eliminate the requirement of a visa for admission to the CNMI.

Q. How does the process for obtaining a visa overseas work?

A. Once USCIS has granted status, such as the proposed E-2 CNMI Investor, USCIS would issue a "Notice of Approval", which the investor would bring to the Embassy or Consulate when applying for the visa to return to the CNMI. Individuals should generally apply at the American Embassy or Consulate with jurisdiction over their place of permanent residence. Wait times for an interview appointment can vary, so early visa application is strongly encouraged. Visa wait times for interview appointments and visa processing time information for each U.S. Embassy or Consulate worldwide is available on the State Department website at Visa Wait Times, and on most embassy websites.

Q. Are these public comments really taken into account?

A. Interested persons are encouraged to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written views on all aspects of this proposed rule. DHS and USCIS also invite comments that relate to the economic, environmental, or federalism effects that might result from this proposed rule. Comments that will provide the most assistance to DHS and USCIS will reference a specific portion of the proposed rule, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include data, information, or authority that support such recommended change. Public comment is an integral part of the federal government's rulemaking process. DHS and USCIS will review and consider each comment submitted. All comments received will be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided.

Source: Department of Homeland Security

PRIORITY OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the Jobs for Veterans Act (US PL 107-288) (38 USC 4215), priority of service is provided to veterans (and certain spouses) who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for all employment and training programs funded by the USDOL to include funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For more information, contact WIA at 664-1704; 1707;1708 and 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since the governor lifted the hiring restrictions at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in late July, over 10 individuals have already been hired and added to the agency's workforce.

CUC executive director Tony Muna told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that about eight to 10 people have been hired from off-island while half a dozen are local residents.

"We've got 8 to 10 new people [nonresident workers] and about a half a dozen local employees as well," he said.

Muna said CUC has been successful in getting inquiries from both off-island and local applicants during the recruitment period.

"We're also fortunate enough to engage the services of some young men from the technical institute and have accepted positions at CUC," Muna said, referring to the vocational school Marianas Trade Institute.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial ordered the lifting of the hiring restrictions on non-U.S. citizen professionals at CUC after what he described as the Legislature "failure to act on CUC's critical personnel needs" to stabilize its operations.

The lifting of the restriction has freed up CUC to hire more than 19 nonresident workers for critical positions that cannot be filled by U.S. or local workers.

Among these critical positions are engineers, technicians, mechanics, sanitarians, accountants, information technology specialists, electricians, and others.

The governor earlier said the hiring of needed staff is urgent to maintain CUC's stable operation.

CUC said a major challenge to carrying out its rehabilitation of power plants is finding qualified people on the island.

It was disclosed that CUC accumulated 18,053 hours of overtime from technical employees who have each worked 40 or more hours of overtime in a pay period in previous months due to lack of manpower.

Child Passenger Safety Week
September 12 – 18, 2009

Child restraints work best when used correctly.

Three out of four child safety seats are improperly installed according to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For proper instructions please visit our child passenger safety website. www.nhtsa.gov/cps

Failure to read and follow the child safety seat instructions, in addition to vehicle owner manual instructions regarding installation, could result in serious injury or death as a result of a failure of the child safety seat to be securely or properly restrained.

NHTSA recommends that children who have outgrown their child safety seats should ride in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old, unless they are 4'9" or taller.

Children under 13 are safest when properly buckled in the back seat of a motor vehicle.

Díaz Cartagena is 2010 Census adviser for NMI

Rebecca Díaz Cartagena, a section chief with the U.S. Census Bureau, has been selected as the 2010 Census advisor for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Díaz Cartagena began her career in the Census Bureau's Geography Division in 2004 assisting in the development of the Puerto Rico census address file. Three years ago, she began working on the Island Areas Operational Integration Team and was crucial in the development of address listing pages for each Island Area. She moved to the Decennial Management Division last year to be chief of the Puerto Rico Section of the Puerto Rico, Island Areas, and Overseas Branch.

"The Northern Mariana Islands are very beautiful, and I look forward to working together with the Commonwealth to have a very successful 2010 Census," Díaz Cartagena said.

Díaz Cartagena was born in New York and was raised in Aibonito, Puerto Rico. She earned her bachelor's degree in general sciences at the University of Puerto Rico—Río Piedras and her masters in environmental resources from Arizona State University.

Díaz Cartagena is on site on Saipan, where she will remain until all 2010 Census activities and operations are completed and the local census office is closed.

The 2010 Census includes a count of everyone living in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Census data help direct the allocation of federal funding. ***(PR)***

Kilili urged to co-sponsor bill to expand free meals for kids

NMI Delegate Gregorio Sablan is being urged to co-sponsor a legislation that will benefit the Commonwealth by expanding the free meals provided to children of low-income families.

S. 1343, "Hunger Free Schools Act of 2009", was introduced by U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, Bob Casey, and Michael Bennett.

On Friday, Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao asked Sablan to collaborate on the legislation to ensure that Commonwealth students will benefit from the Act.

"This bill is important because it will make it possible for more low-income children to participate in school meal programs by improving and expanding direct certification for school meal eligibility and by allowing more schools in high-poverty areas to provide free meal programs," Faisao told Sablan in a letter.

Faisao said the bill will expand access to child nutrition programs by requiring school districts to use data from Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program to directly certify more students that are eligible for free school meals. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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CPA BOARD OR DIRECTORS

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the CPA Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. at the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

III. SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
1. CBP/DHS/Army Corp
2. Personnel Contracts
3. CIQ Parking Permit Waiver

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director
September 11, 2009

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Anthony P. Sonoda and Lorraine Anne C. Sonoda now known as Lorraine Anne T. Cabrera, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 11, 2002 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 11, 2002 under Document No. 02-585 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 019 I 30, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 948 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE SURVEY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 019 I 04, DLS CHECK NO. 019 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE, AS FILE NO. 91-2320, ON MAY 13, 1991.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on January 21, 2009. Thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **One Hundred Two Thousand, Nine Hundred Sixty and 00/100 ($102,960.00)**, the total amount due under the VA loan.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 21st day of August, 2009.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

"NMHC IS A FAIR HOUSING PROVIDER, LENDER AND EMPLOYER"

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for the Procurement and Installation of a Non-Directional (Rotating) Beacon at the Tinian International Airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and install a brand new non-directional (rotating) beacon at the Tinian International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and testing of the new beacon with a 1-year warranty and 1-year preventive maintenance services. Beacon specifications are as follows with all new components:

- No less than sixty feet (60') high;
- Must withstand at least 190 MPH winds;
- Have a 1.5 gust factor;
- Include a climbing device and basket tower;
- Include a beacon light with 120 VAC, lens, pulse start, obstruction lights, lightning rod; and
- Installation of electrical including new wiring, splicing and breaker.

All requirements under FAA Advisory Circular 150/5345-12E, "Specifications for Airport and Heliport Beacons" must be adhered to during the procurement and installation of this equipment.

Furthermore, included in the work is the removal and complete disposal of the existing tower. Disposal site is the responsibility of the contractors but it must be located outside CPA's property.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

A walk-through inspection will be conducted on **Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.** in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Attendance at this walkthrough is mandatory for any companies interested in submitting proposals. Prospective proposers will meet at the office of the Tinian Ports Manager at the Tinian International Airport on the date and time mentioned above.

The contract period for design and replacement will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 9, 2009**.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 9, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Procurement and Installation of Standby Generator and Building
Port of Saipan
Project No. CPA-SS-002-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), through a grant from the Office of Homeland Security, is requesting for proposals for design/build services for procurement and installation of one (1) brand new generator with controls, housing and fuel tank to be situated at the Port of Saipan.

A detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, September 11, 2009. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at 3:00 pm** at the Conference Room at the CPA Seaport Administrative Building. The project scope of work and location of the generator will be discussed. Attendance at this conference is mandatory for all companies interested in submitting proposals.

The contract period for design, installation and testing will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 16, 2009.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than Oct. 9, 2009.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 9, 2009

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

SEPT. 14, 1999

AGO raids gambling den
Eight Chinese nationals have been detained for illegal gambling and three others for immigration violations in the latest raid conducted by authorities in the tourist district of Garapan, according to the Attorney General's Office. Combined forces from the AGO's Investigative Unit, Department of Public Safety and the Department of Labor and Immigration swooped down on a suspected illegal gambling den located at the former Mai Thai Restaurant early Sunday morning.

Lawyer tells his client's story
Xue Jian Hui is among the hundreds of boat people who fled China's Fujian province and embraced the dream of going to Guam, where they thought a promising life was waiting. Instead, they ended in the detention facility on Tinian. Some of them, including Xue, ended up facing the court for criminal charges. Xue was just a component of anonymous statistics until yesterday. His attorney, Eric Smith, narrated the story of Xue's life before a 12-man jury at the opening of the trial for six (not five as earlier reported) Chinese men charged with alien smuggling. Xue, 23, is a native of Nan Jing, a small rural village in Fujian Province, which has a population of 1,000 families.

SEPT. 14, 2000

Gov't faces power shutoff
Electricity in several government offices may have to be shut off by next month if the Tenorio administration continues to ignore demand for payment of its mounting utility debt which at present amounts to over $12.2 million. Amid its precarious financial shape, the board of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation took steps yesterday to squeeze the government after its earlier efforts failed to produce an agreement with the Department of Finance.

CNMI may get help on rising fuel prices
The commerce department is now in the process of collecting data on the importation of petroleum products into the Northern Marianas, which may intensify government efforts to minimize the effects of rising fuel prices on the local economy. The commerce department's move came following a request for information from a regional advisory group that deals with the importation of petroleum products, according to Central Statistics Division acting Director Isidro R. Ogarto.

SEPT. 14, 2001

Youth Congress election set on Monday
A little over 3,000 registered youths with ages ranging from 14 to 21 are expected to troop to the polls on Monday for the CNMI Youth Congress election, which now goes into its fourth year as a civic program for the youths. Thirty-eight precinct and school candidates will vie for 23 seats representing the entire CNMI, and will include public and private schools. Classes, however, will not be suspended during the polls. In preparation for the Monday election, precinct representatives had a meeting yesterday morning at the House of Representatives' chamber, as they tried to iron out any last kinks to ensure a smooth election.

Red Cross responds to New York, Washington tragedies
The local NMI chapter of the American Red Cross is working closely with the organization's National Headquarters with regard to the recent tragedies in New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania. The NMI Chapter Disaster Response Plan consists of 48 volunteers who are part of the Disaster Service Human Resources. These volunteers are trained and are on-call for the local Red Cross chapter, as well as in the mainland US. When there is a crisis that requires DSHR assistance, these volunteers travel to the disaster site.

SEPT. 14, 2002

Zoning law underway
Although the anti-prostitution drive of the CNMI government has been netting some results, Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente conceded that this is clearly not enough, underscoring the need to expedite the passage of a zoning law. In line with this, Benavente said the administration has given the matter its highest priority, with key staff sitting down yesterday morning to discuss the matter and outlining the major tenets of the proposed measure.

OAG reminds sellers about price laws

The Office of the Attorney General is reminding merchants that the Consumer Protection Act in the Commonwealth Code prohibits:

■ "increasing the cost of merchandise which has previously been placed into the stream of commerce by having been offered to the public for sale at a specific price, indicated by the price tag or marking placed on the goods;" and

■ "increasing the price of goods, solely on the basis of a shortage of supply caused by natural disaster or any other emergency situation."

A violation of that act subjects the offender to various civil and criminal penalties including up to six months of imprisonment per occurrence.

The Commonwealth Disaster Price Freeze Act of 1996 states that, if the Commonwealth is in typhoon condition two, or tropical storm condition one, or in case governor declares a state of emergency, the governor may declare that prices of certain items must be frozen. A violation of this act subjects the offender to various civil and criminal penalties including imprisonment and a fine of up to $10,000 per occurrence.

This is not specific legal advice and merchants are encouraged to seek the advice of a private attorney when making business decisions.

Any resident with information concerning unfair or illegal price inflation is encouraged to contact the Office of the Attorney General so an investigation can be initiated.

If a member of the public wishes to provide information or file a complaint, he or she may do so by phoning the Attorney General's Investigative Unit at 664-2312.

Concerned citizens may also contact the Office of the Attorney General in Capital Hill or by phoning 664-2341. ***(OAG)***

Kilili notes 15th year of law against violence vs women

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On its 15th anniversary U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) is hailing the importance of the Violence Against Women Act and what it has meant for America's women.

"On September 13, 1994, President Bill Clinton signed the Violence Against Women Act into law, as part of the Omnibus Crime Bill," said Sablan. "Over these last 15 years, this Act has made major strides in making America's women more safe and secure and better ensuring the victims of violence receive the services they need."

This week in Washington, D.C., Maisie Bermudes Tenorio represented the Northern Mariana Islands Coalition against domestic and sexual violence at a national conference against domestic violence. Tenorio was also a guest of Sablan's at President Obama's address on health care to a joint session of Congress.

The Violence Against Women Act was groundbreaking legislation that strengthened the nation's response to the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This law has not only strengthened criminal laws and provided funding to improve the criminal justice system's response to these serious crimes, it has also laid the groundwork for local coordinated community responses to end violence against women by bringing together victim advocates, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and the judiciary. In addition, the enactment of VAWA has led to a broader understanding that prevention of domestic violence is also a public health issue and health care professionals have also been brought in.

"The problem of violence against women has received increasing attention in the Northern Mariana Islands. I salute the work of the Northern Mariana Islands Coalition, Guma Esparanza, and everyone in the NMI who is working to protect women and families from this scourge. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Division of Historic Preservation
Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Division of Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Fund Grant
Proposed Work Goals for FY 2009

The Division of Historic Preservation (HPO) under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, anticipates the receipt of approximately $401,879 from the U.S. National Park Services for Fiscal Year 2009. This funding is provided to support the Commonwealth's Historic Preservation program and related community activities.

Prior to the submission of the grant application, the Division of Historic Preservation Office would like to solicit the community's input or comments on what priorities, concerns, projects, and activities it would like to undertake relating to Historic Preservation.

We need your comments particularly on such aspects as:

1). What do you think we should be focusing more of this year?
2). What particular community projects do you believe is important that we should try to fund?
3). What topics should we focus when publishing our ethnographic or archaeological books?
4). What particular areas do you want our office to concentrate on surveying or in the identification of cultural materials?
5). What aspects of the program do you think we should strengthen?

The following are examples of work goals that are proposed for FY2009. We would like to know what you think about them.

- Conducting a more intensive survey on Carolinas area on Tinian.
- Reprinting all HPO's archaeological and ethnographic collection
- Implementing and maintaining its Geographic Information System
- Nominating significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places
- Provide a symposium on historic preservation policies and identification of cultural materials
- Educate the CNMI's children about historic preservation through school visits, lectures and field trips
- Work with ABPP grant recipient on Underwater trail
- Other Underwater investigations with agencies and trainnees
- Partner with MARC on exploration of Northern Islands surveys

Interested individuals are invited to submit their comments to the HPO in writing no later than September 25, 2009. Written comments should be address to the Director, CNMI HPO, Division of Historic Preservation, Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs, P. O. Box 500090 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be faxed to our office at 664-2139 or sent through e-mail to hpoarch@pticom.com. Please visit our office located on Airport Road, beween the former MVA Office and the LSG Building should you have any questions.

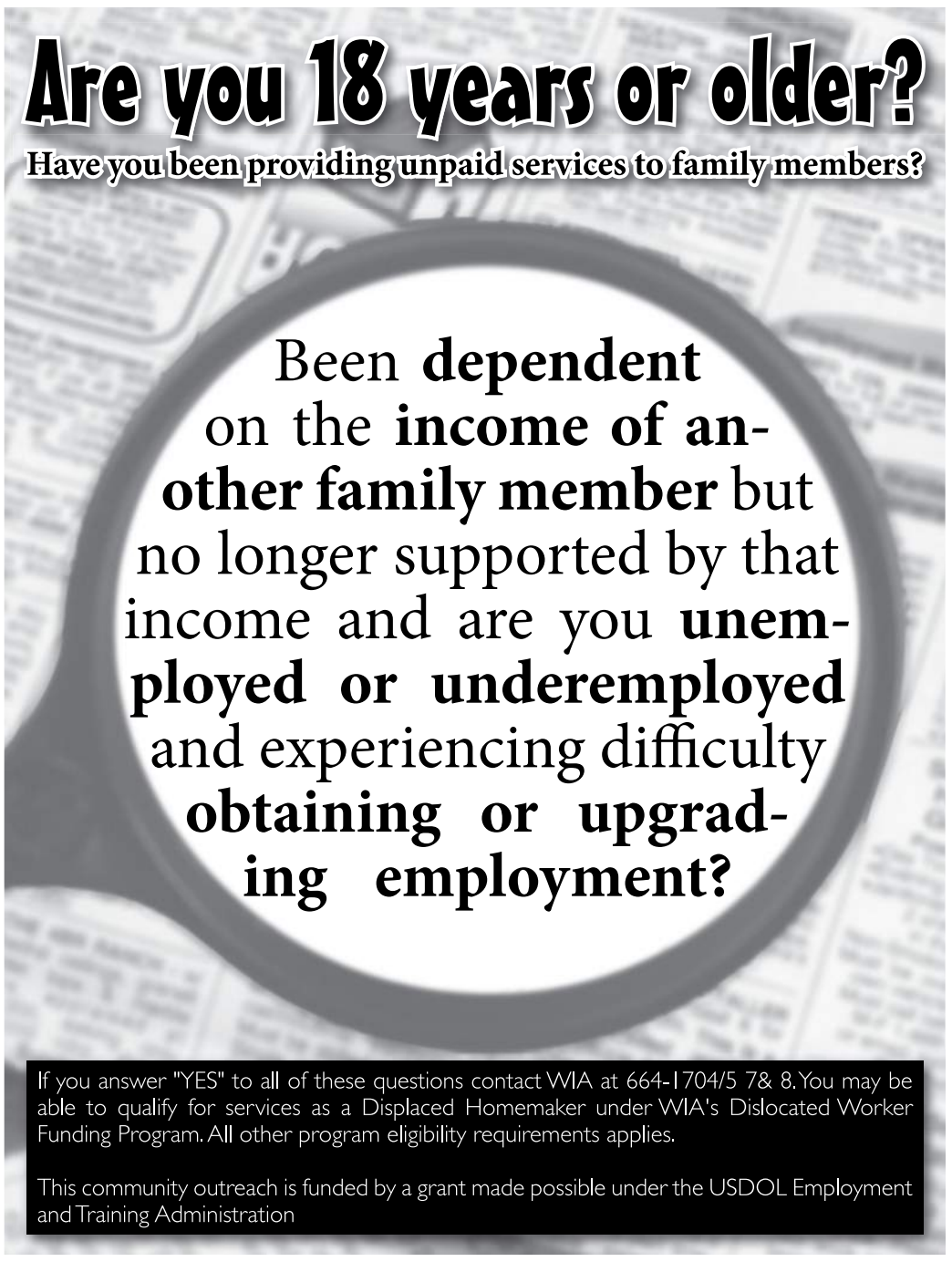
In addition to submitted written comments, our office would also like to undertake a formal public hearing to listen to your concerns and ideas about the historic preservation grant and possible projects or activities. The following is a schedule in this effect:

Island	Location	Date	Time
Rota	Round House	9/16/09	6:30 p.m.
Tinian	Tinian Youth Center	9/22/09	6:30 p.m.
Saipan	CRM Conference Room	9/24/09	6:30 p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We look forward to hearing your comments and ideas. Your input and participation is extremely valuable.

/s/ Pedro (Roy) C. Sablan Jr.
Director, CNMI Historic Preservation Office

Concurred by:
/s/ Melvin o. Faisao September 11, 2009
Secretary, Community & Cultural Affairs


Are you 18 years or older?
Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?
Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?
If you answer "YES" to all of these questions contact WIA at 664-1704/5 7& 8. You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.
This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

NOTIFICATION OF WIA DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

CATEGORY A: GENERAL DISLOCATED WORKERS. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

CATEGORY B: PLANT CLOSURE. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.

CATEGORY C: SELF-EMPLOYED or UNEMPLOYED. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WIA AT 664-1704;1707; 1708 OR 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com. All other program eligibility applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Americans are coming; prepare ourselves!

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

It's a done deal. Nov. 28, 2009, begins the end of freedom of our external affairs. The U.S. Homeland Security will begin to exercise its concern for national security in the CNMI. The CNMI is one of the pieces to the U.S.' puzzle on fortifying its defenses. On that date Homeland Security will dictate who enters the CNMI for whatever reason. This act will also influence other aspects of our lives and economy.

It is imperative that we fully understand the documents supporting or not supporting federalization and the thinking behind it. Understanding of any problem is the first step toward coping with or solving it. How do we prepare ourselves for this event?

Because this is such a momentous occasion, I want to recommend several documents that every one of us should read or reread. They will deeply help us to understand better the situation.

For a starter, look up U.S. Public Law 110-229 and read Title VII—Northern Mariana Islands—Subtitle A—Immigration, Security, and Labor. To quote:

Sec.701. Statement of Congressional Intent.

(a) Immigration and Growth—In recognition of the need to ensure uniform adherence to long-standing fundamental immigration policies of the United States, it is the intention of Congress in enacting this subtitle—

(1) to ensure that effective border control procedures are implemented and observed, and that national security and homeland security issues are properly addressed by extending the immigration laws…to apply to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands…."

This is a must-read document for us to understand what the U.S. Congress' intentions are. Though it doesn't spell out the regulations, it does explain the basics of the law.

Next in our reading is the U.S. GAO testimony given before the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, Committee on National Resources, House of Representatives—Tuesday, May 19, 2009. It offers that agency's investigation. It helps us to understand better the effects federalization will have on our economy. It discusses how it will impact our tourist market and nonresident labor. Though not conclusive in its investigation, it does help us to get a better view from an investigating agency that also has certain concern about what effect federalization will have on us. You can find it on the Internet. A must reading.

After reading the two items, try to find another GAO report about federalization written in March, 2009. The web page is www.GAO.gov/htext/d08466.html. It gives a lot of background material making reference to the Covenant and how that document has become the center of all discussions about federalization.

The most important document on the must-read list is the "Covenant of the Northern Mariana Islands." If you don't have a copy get one from the government printing office or from a friend. If you have read it in the past, reread it again. This is the foundation of all discussion on federalization. It will help us to decide how we feel our future relations with the United States should be. Will they consist of reactionaryism or of friendship?

To refresh our memories, the Covenant was negotiated over the course of 27 months (December 1972 to February 1975) by the Marianas Political Status Commission, made up of representatives of the Northern Mariana Islands, and a delegation representing the United States. After many more discussions and compromises, the final document was voted on by 78.8 percent of all registered voters in the CNMI. After it was approved by both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, The Covenant was signed by President Gerald Ford into Public Law 94-241 (90Stat.263) on March 24,1976.

The Covenant's main function is to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in *political union* with the United States of America. It established a self-governing commonwealth for the CNMI within the American political system and defines future relationships between us and the United States. So now we are at definition time for some parts of the Covenant.

We must understand the basis for the United States taking such a strong position for federalization. If someone or a group were to take the initiative to better educate us, our understanding will help us overcome any crisis that is supposed to occur once federalization is solidly entrenched in the CNMI. To do nothing will result in a feeling of animosity between the United States and us. It will result in feelings of confrontation instead of friendship.

As we read Article I, Section 104, of the Covenant, we begin to realize what the United States is concerned about:

"The United States will have complete responsibility for and authority with respect to matters relating to foreign affairs and defense affecting the Northern Mariana Islands."

This is a powerful statement and one that needs total understanding!

Another important document that we must read and reread is our Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It also is an important part of any discussion about federalization. Let me quote from its Preamble:

"We the people of the Northern Mariana Island grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, ordain and establish this Constitution as the embodiment of our traditions and hopes for our Commonwealth *in political union* with the United States of America."

You will note that the phrase *"in political union with the United States of America"* appears in both the Covenant and in the Constitution. This is a major point that needs to be clearly defined. I feel it is the pivot point in all future discussions.

It is not my intention here to explain the Covenant or to justify the imposition of federalization on the CNMI. I am not qualified to do that. But I am asking that all of us become familiar with the documents that are part of what is and will be happening to us. We must be well-informed citizens.

I am puzzled why none of the political candidates are taking an open position on this important issue. I am equally puzzled that the government is not trying to better educate us in understanding this important issue. It merely has taken a position which only time will tell whether it will aid or hurt us.

I was impressed how our Washington Representative Greg Sablan held public hearings in the various villages searching for input from us. May I suggest that some lawyers and other more informed people who fully understand the Covenant hold public meetings to interpret to us the basic concepts expressed therein. I frankly am confused on several portions and would welcome more learned opinions to help me better understand.

Why can't a group of us concerned citizens form a task force, perhaps calling ourselves "Citizens for Better Understanding of Federalization"? We can hold periodic meetings throughout the villages explaining the parts of the Covenant that affect us in this situation.

We must understand the basis for the United States taking such a strong position for federalization. If someone or a group were to take the initiative to better educate us, our understanding will help us overcome any crisis that is supposed to occur once federalization is solidly entrenched in the CNMI. To do nothing will result in a feeling of animosity between the United States and us. It will result in feelings of confrontation instead of friendship.

As we are all aware, the world is in turmoil. As more and more countries try to develop atomic weapons and other countries are committing terrorism near our doorstep, the United States has to build up its defenses. And since we are in political union with the U.S., we are being asked to participate. To do any less is to expose itself and us to a possible major disaster.

I agree along with many of us who feel that the United States should lay out the rules of exactly what federalization will possibly do to us. But since these playing rules are not yet clearly laid out, we have time to better educate ourselves as to what rights the U.S. has to impose its needs on us. As I mentioned above: Understanding a problem will help us to better cope with it if we cannot change it.

Part of being a good citizen requires that we brief ourselves on major events that affect our lives. In this manner we remain strong and confident that the future will offer prosperity to us under any circumstances. Listen to the words of Thomas Jefferson: "That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part."

Only an enlightened interest in our destiny will guide us over any dark path. Have a great day!

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Being our spirit maturity

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Sixth grade Science introduces the reproductive process. In my class, we saw the picture of squiggly sperms swimming like tadpoles upstream to an ovule, and out of the 200-million-some that is the result of a single ejaculation, only one sperm manages to penetrate the ovum's outer coating to join it in creative union. It can also penetrate only with the ovum's permission.

At the moment of conception, a possible human is already a winner in the biggest lottery of its life. Winning does not mean it is better than any of the 199-million-some others that accompanied its journey. It is simply stating an indicative fact that the one sperm made it in being, and the others did not. The ovum also exercised its choice over millions of possibilities.

Further, the two united cells of the ova and the sperm, in a nine-month period, produces a distinctively sophisticated organism not only of a bodily system that includes complex metabolic processes but also a psychological field that will guide emotions and a brain that will regulate sensory perceptions. The emotions and the brain create a mind that enables personal reflections and preferences, culminating in the mind's power to create operating images, recall the past, anticipate the future, and establish awareness. Cogitation involves the consciousness of consciousness.

To be conceived a winner, a union of free will, and born a master creator of a multifaceted system of interrelated functions and skills renders the entry level of the human as nothing but sheer mystery and awe, an eventful "wonderstanding' that unhappily, as the child grows, is slowly negated by the "nabobs of negativism," to borrow a phrase from a disgraced former US Vice-President. The cultures of low self-esteem consist of learned behaviors, contrary to the natural state of every living creature that is birthed on this earth wild, creative and free!

In the past, this birthing of humans was simply identified with the heritage of ancestry, evolving into the ego identity of the individual, to being a typology of personality in the context of ethnicity and culture, to the evolutionary stage of mindfulness that is innate in the brain's programming, to finally the intuitive sense that one belongs to a more comprehensive identity than mere survival skills of fight and flight, further than the personal passion to respond in anger, fear and humiliation, even beyond the heart's compassionate courage and the mind's illuminated brilliance.

There is another world of the spirit of which humanity is a part, a reality that gives permission to every self to trust the way life is, to love its wholeness and all component parts, and to know and feel itself to be unconditionally free.

My father once told me that I was not born to the Vergara family—I was born to humanity. He was not out to disown me, or any of my siblings, by identifying us beyond the circle of ancestry, cultural tradition, and even religious preference. He was a Methodist pastor who had as a motto from his non-Roman Catholic orientation: "The world is my parish." He left us with a sense of glocal identity and social responsibility. We may not act any different from other *homo sapiens,* but we certainly are conscious of the trap of the addictive propensities of the ego, and the self-righteous pride of the personality, and the abstracting effervescence of the mind, yet we are also imbued with the eternal "wonderstanding" of the mysterious yet ever present spirit.

We are all Africans. The process of populating the planet is not by fiat decree of the stars or a super creature in the heavenly realm. The migration of the gene-carrying species that journeyed from the African continent to the tip of the Patagonian peninsula have been plotted, and its general movement mapped in 6th grade Social Studies textbooks. About 97 percent of our genes are similar. Even the *National Geographic* magazine, not given to rushed judgments, has claimed that to be so. That we need to accent our differences is understandable since no two human beings, let alone two human consciousness, are the same. We are with the French in insisting that we celebrate 'Vive le difference!' But the fact remains that we are also genetically all cousins!

Who are you?

We are all an ego that develops from the womb, all patterns of habits and behavior that ensures survival. We can be trapped when we get stuck in our favored and comfortable habits of fight and/or flight. But survive we will when surviving, we can. Our egos enable us to do that.

The ego released from its limits to its possibilities is synergized by relating to other egos, beginning with inherited memes from ancestry to race and culture. Our personality is functional. We often speak of types of personalities, and that is simply a typology of our propensities. It sorts our preferences, leaning mostly to what we consider to be comforting and safe, certain and assuring within our social milieu. That's why our current literature delineates between functional and dysfunctional personalities.

When a personality becomes conscious of itself and relates to itself in the same way as it does the same to other consciousness, the self discovers a mind. The mind insists on attentiveness, paying attention, as Sgt. Carter would holler to Gomer Pyle's squad: "Attention!" There are many practices that promote attentiveness to bodily functions, emotional distresses and delights, mental perceptions and cognitions, and when taken as a whole, one might be said to discover the soul.

Beyond race and culture, the soul has become a human claim.

See BEING on Page 13

Lastrun Tata Gi Inai

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hu bisita un` biahe Puntan Muchot (Micro Beach) mientras hu nanañga un` amiguhu ni kakaghalom ginen pumeska. Entretantu, mamokatyu gi ayu na kantun unai `nai sessu antes hu dalalag si tatan Leon tumalaya (chumiliguagua`).

Kulan mohon mabira tatte i tiempu sa` hu lie` anineñg tautau kumahat para u dagau talayaña. Todu matulaika ayu na momientu tatte gi uttimon siñkuenta siha na sakan. Hu huñgog kumuentos si tata `nai para u fanue`yu taimanu magonafña i tiao gi halom unai.

Guiya este na modun peska i chadeg na sentadan familia. Entalu kelaguen `sino inaflitun pattun na guihan man-dikiki. Taya parehuña este na sentada piot ya pagu monhayan hau umo`mag sa` yayas hau ginen i tasi.

Dispues hu huñgog i amiguhu ume`esalau ginen i chagu. Hu tutuhon mamokat tatte gi karetahu ya gi uttimu pasuhu para guatu gi fina` chaguan, kulan hu huñgog talu si tata uma`adiñgan. `Nai hu birayu, hu lie` lastroña (tabi) yan un` dikiki na adeñg patgon gi tateña. Misin ñaihon lagohu ya hunaegue agradesimientu pot ayu na tiempu `nai sessu humame na dos antes.

Tu lanoche gaige si tata gi hinasoghu ya esta hana` uduyu gi fatachoñghu ya sige hu konsidera kau magahet finaposhu guihe na taloane. Machuli` i lugat para i gaige guihe na American Memorial Park. I inai `nai sessuyu yan man-primuhu man-chiliguagua`, megaiña `antala` tatautau (turista) ni pumalai siha lañan kontra ininan atdau. Lau hagas lugat tumalaya iya Puntan Muchot. `Nai tumatachu i Hyatt Regency pagu, lugat pañglau echuñg ya megai siña un` koni piot sa` hagas sisonyan ayu na lugat. I tasi gi oriya hagas lugat peskan panag yan gigau. Lau lugat tinala` bisita gaige guihe pagu.

Mampos dañkulu na tinilaika i hagas lugat `nai ume`etotche i natibu para mantension familia. Antes, fina` guihan dikiki yan pañglau. Pagu, lamlam tatautau bisita gi kantun unai yan sasyan niha para Mañagaha. Buente mauleg na industria este i bisitan ginen i chagu. Lau mattu gi ha displanta modun linala` guine piot gi halom mamoble ni man-e`ensinahyau antes pot probision tropa.

Siña mohon mana` sahñge `nos kuantos pot sientu ginen i hotels siha para fondun ma`talun establese lugat pañglau yan guihan guihe na lugat? Buente estague presiun i modetnu na Marianas lau ti sanu na pisu gi dañkulu na tinilaika gi hagas humiddi na linala`ta. Ai, lau mampos metgut si tata gi hinasoghu kada hu bisita i lugat.

■■■

Nobladu i haane. Nobulosu lokue hinasoghu. Era sige hu faisen maisayu hafa i difirensia gi entalu "inañgoghu" yan "hineñge". Yangin hu añgoghu hau, kau siña gi mismu tiempu bai` hoñge hau?

Ti hu tuñgu hafa ineppemu lau debi este dos palabras yan todo sustansian niha u sisiha parehu mona. Hu añgoghu i Saina sa` hu hoñgegue na solu guiya i man-nanae`. Memegaiña gi tinayuyothu ha oppe sin ditension. Aregla haanen miyu ya in` fañaunau man-ma`ayeg gi tropa ni man-ma`agañg. Sen mas, si Yuus maase`!

Letters to the Editor

Er…how much was that?

A statement on Friday, attributed to Tony Muña, executive director of CUC, claimed the following: Besides the initial $6 million contract, Muña said CUC incurred no additional costs for the Aggreko deal. "They're paid in full. And whatever we agreed upon, that's what we paid for," he said.

It was further revealed, for the first time in public print, that Aggreko had installed 18 generation units. The original contract called for 10 units—and $6 million in lease rent. Did Mr. Muña lie when he made that statement on Friday ("no additional costs")? CUC is a government operated *public* utility of grave concern to the citizens of the NMI. Its service is a basic life necessity. It is paid for by the public—and that public has a *right to know* how it is operated, from top to bottom. Therefore, I ask again, and based on the below quoted contracted conditions: Did Mr. Muña lie when he made that statement on Friday?

A continuing, and now questionable, "state of emergency" declaration is not a reason for this government to continue its cover-up of the real costs of the Aggreko contract. Now that the contract is finished, all those questions that have for too long gone unanswered *must* now be answered. It's called "accountability" and it is the *responsibility* of any government. This letter in no way is to belie the fact that Aggreko *did* accomplish its end goal, but that does *not* justify hiding its real cost.

Responsible parties within the Legislature must now use their authority and yield to the people's right to know and seek out, force out if needed, every transaction made by CUC and the NMI government concerning Aggreko and power on Saipan and show *how* the expenses incurred by this contract has affected power rates, not only on Saipan, but on *all* islands served by CUC in spite of a lack of service by Aggreko to other islands.

Contract No. 12305-Q001-SD; (CUC) No. CUC-PG-08-C016, dated June 19, 2008:

1) Called for the initial installation of 10 one-megawatt generator units (with two additional units as "spares"). Since 18 units were eventually installed, was the original contract modified in any way? Was a separate, as yet unpublished, contract entered into? Did the additional eight units add any cost to the lease rent of $6 million for the 52-week period? Please clarify the difference between the $6 million "lease rent" for one year and the guaranteed minimum "energy charge" (at .05 cents per kwh) of $84,000 per week.

2) Section 2.3 states that Customs examination and all import and export clearances as well as governmental statutory charges shall be paid for by CUC. What were the charges for these services? Additionally, what was the cost in time, labor and inter-departmental involvement of EPA's inquiry and the responses made to EPA regarding the use of these non-CCA compliant units?

3) Section 2.4 states that all duties, levies, taxes and other charges in relation to the importation and exportation of the plant, equipment, tools, spare parts, consumables, testing and monitoring equipment that are in accordance with the laws rules and regulations of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and arise out of the performance of this contract are for account of CUC. What were the charges incurred for any of these provisions?

4) Section 4.1 states that CUC shall pay to Aggreko as "energy charge" an amount of $0.0500 per kilowatt hour subject to a "guaranteed minimum weekly offtake" of 1.68 gigawatt hours. This rate translates to a "guaranteed *minimum*" weekly charge of $84,000 (at 1,680,000 kwh x $0.05). Were these charges paid for by CUC according to contract specifications as outlined in point 5 below?

5) Section 4.3 states that for purposes of this contract, a "month" shall consist of 28 days. It further states that the *first* energy charge for the first four weeks of operation in the amount of $336,000 shall be paid "upfront, prior to mobilization" and, after payment of an additional eight-week, $772,000, "security" deposit, the second and subsequent payments shall be paid every "month" (*four* weeks) thereafter. Aggreko will present invoices monthly and CUC will make the payments within 14 days thereafter. All such invoices for energy charges, showing the total amount of actual power produced and consumed, and any CUC payments made thereto should be made available immediately to the Office of the Public Auditor in accordance with section 10.17 of the same contract. How much did CUC pay in "energy charges" during the 52-week contract service period?

6) Section 5.3 states that CUC shall prepare the site and all civil works for the erection and operation of the plant and shall undertake those works and the provision of 24-hour guards at CUC expense. How much was the site preparation expense and the cost of the "24-hour guards" for one year?

7) Section 5.4 states that CUC shall supply a main earthing connection terminal point for Aggreko to connect the plant at CUC's cost. How much did this cost?

8) Section 6.2 states that CUC shall obtain at its own cost all necessary visas and work permits during any period when Aggreko employees are required to work in the NMI. How much did any required work visas and permits cost?

9) Section 6.3 states that CUC shall supply six unskilled laborers during the mobilization and demobilization phases. For how long were any workers supplied by CUC during all phases of operation and how much did these personnel cost?

10) Section 6.5 states that CUC shall be responsible for disposal of used engine oil, drums and filters. The costs of the foregoing items and any additional costs are excluded from the service charges and shall be paid for by CUC. How much did these provisions cost CUC?

11) Section 7.1 states that all fuel, fuel storage and potable water for the plant shall be supplied and paid for by CUC. How much did these items cost?

12) Section 8.6 indemnifies Aggreko for *any* loss or damage incurred to the plant or any person(s) injury or property damage and

See HOW MUCH on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to 25 to 40 mph.	Damaging winds. Southwest winds 40 to 55 mph. Mostly cloudy with numerous locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

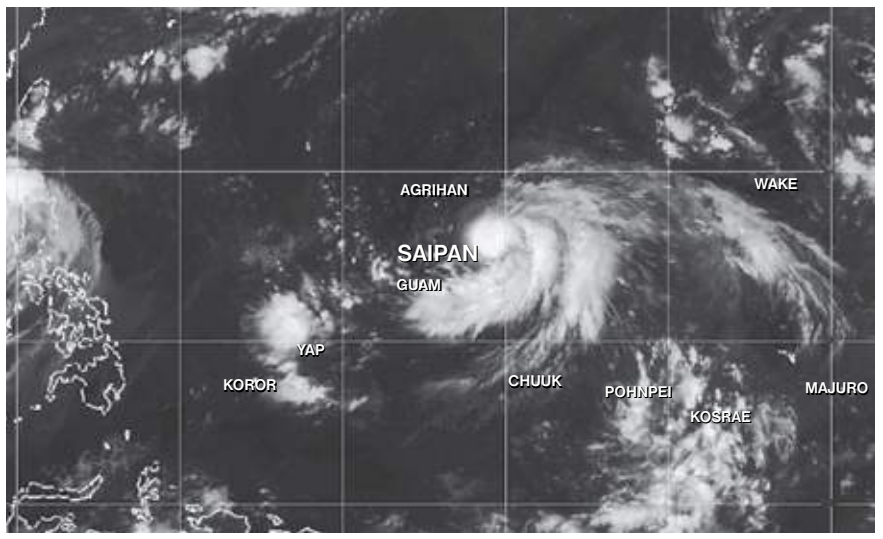
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲64	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲88	▼61
Hong Kong	Rain	▲90	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Cloudy	▲70	▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼42
Miami	Cloudy	▲89	▼78
New York	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼66
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼63
Paris	Cloudy	▲64	▼55
Pusan	Showers	▲77	▼61
Rome	Cloudy	▲77	▼60
Salem	Cloudy	▲73	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼57
Seoul	Cloudy	▲78	▼58
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲75	▼66
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲84	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Choi-wan (15W) is centered east of the Marianas near 16N150E. A surface trough runs east-southeastward from 18N135E to Choi-wan then continues southeastward to end at EQ172. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within an area bounded by a line from 19N150E to 11N144E to 11N155E to 19N155E back to 19N150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near Yap within 75 miles of a line from 13N137E to 7N137E to 16N142E and near Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 10N from 157E to 165E. For more detailed information on Choi-wan. See JTWC bulletins under WMO header WTPN21 and NWSFO Guam advisories under WMO header WTPQ31. An upper-level trough extends eastward from 20N130E to a weak upper-level low centered northeast of Wake Island near 21N173E then continues southward to end at 10N172E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found between 20N and 25N from 160E to 176E and northeast of the Marshall Islands within 75 miles of a line from 10N175E to 14N177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:26 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:28 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:08 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:09 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:19 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:07 AM	2:33 PM
Tuesday	2:11 AM	3:26 PM
Wednesday	3:14 AM	4:14 PM
Thursday	4:15 AM	4:59 PM
Friday	5:13 AM	5:42 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

OPINION

Reinventing the CNMI

I received an email from a close friend who expressed his keen interest to see some changes in our lives for the better. I believe the following excerpt will get our voters to assess who they should vote for, and perhaps our candidates should check and see how they measure up to affiliating themselves to the points contained in the following:

"To get to the point: Saipan (CNMI) has to figure a way to 'reinvent' itself. I'm not sure just exactly how to go about that, but I am convinced that the voters are going to have to realize, if they want to dig out from under the present stagnant economy, that they have to look beyond selecting candidates based on family connections. They need people with the drive, enthusiasm, education, and commitment of the likes of Tina Sablan. They need to elect people with vision and civic interests and reject those candidates who are only in it for themselves.

"Enough time has now passed in experimenting with 'self-government' to have learned by now from past mistakes. It's an education problem to get people to break away from the old waya of electing their officials. I'm not aware Guam has such problems as one observes in the CNMI. But you know more about that than I do. Many politicians in the CNMI appear to want to be a part of the U.S.—but separate from the country—at the same time. It sends a very confusing message. If I had anything to do with governance of the CNMI, I would:

- dump Article 12;
- stop fighting the federal government and be more cooperative;
- organize a 'community corporation,' sell stock to local people and purchase some of the 'walk away' assets that are available from foreign investors who plan to bail out. (More local people need to be participants in the economic development process);
- convert oil generators to coal;
- work to bring about the automobile ferry;
- reduce the size of the Legislature;
- encourage condominiums for retirees (after solving the issue of providing health and medical coverage by qualified foreign physicians);
- get tough on crime;
- invest in education;
- turn the task of encouraging foreign investment over to a committee of the Chamber with the government providing the group with a grant of funds sufficient to do the job while the administration and the Legislature get out of the way and leave the committee alone to do its work;
- relax or modify many of the investment-constraining laws and regulations so as to 'untie' the hands of developers and investors and free up their entrepreneurial, risk taking creativity."

David M. Sablan
As Teo, Saipan

Show me the platform!

The CNMI Election is just around the corner. Yet, I cannot make up my mind on who I should vote for, except for one position. Why? As far as I know, only one candidate has publicly given the voters his detailed platform, and that is the candidate for mayor of Saipan, Mr. Donald Glen P. Flores.

I am sure this has been said a thousand times before. A candidate's platform is the main thing that every voter should consider, in order to decide who they will vote for. In addition, you have to consider a candidate's honesty, integrity, and previous records of how he voted. Whether he is a relative should have no bearing on who you vote for.

If I do not see a detailed platform for candidates, I think I will vote for "Spongebob Squarepants" or the latest author of a Best Seller fictional novel.

Derry Noisom
Capital Hill, Saipan

BEING

From Page 11

One can even make a case that the spirit of which the ancients spoke about is this human soul that is common to everyone that comes into this world, the *logos* of the Johannine voice in the Christian Scriptures. One can also claim the other manifestations intuitively arrived at by many world religions, when they are not stuck in the egotistical propensities of their leaders and members, nor dysfunctional in the personalities of its cults and organizations.

We must not end this reflection with the impression of promoting a set of beliefs or religious practices. The mindfulness of the Buddhist is as valid and needed as the depth of surrender of the Muslim to the Will of Allah as well as the gracious compassion of the Christian disciple in the sense, feel and mind of the human soul.

As we began with 6th grade Science, we might end with the humility of the human spirit before the magnificence and expansiveness of the cosmic presence. The planet Earth is 4.3 billion years old, according to our geologists. Human consciousness is a recent birthing in cosmic history, and its incarnation in human civilization is at most, no more than 100,000 years. In a 24-hour timeline where the hour of midnight would be now, the conscious human specie is only 30-seconds old!

It is well that we know ourselves to be a winner at the moment of our conception, and a creative genius on the nine months preceding our birth, but before the Infinite Silence of the Universal Spirit, we are just a blip in the humongous flash of the Big Bang. Yet, the mystery of it all is succinctly stated in an old Semitic formula: I AM WHO I AM. *L'achaim!* To life!

HOW MUCH

From Page 11

CUC shall be accountable for any such claims. Has CUC been held liable for any such claims of injury or damage to persons or property, including workers compensation insurance, and, if so, how much did this cost CUC?

13) Were any additional cost items incurred by CUC that were or could be attributed to operation of the Aggreko plant (such as equipment, trucks, personnel, spare parts, consumables, poles, lines, office personnel or paper clips and postage stamps)? If so, how much did these items cost?

It is time that CUC now accounts for the *actual* cost of the entire Aggreko contract. The people have a right to know.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 1st birthday to Tyreen Mercedes Dela Rosa Aguon, who is celebrating her special day with family and loved ones today, Sept. 14. May you have many more wonderful birthdays to come! God bless and we love you! From your loving Mommy, Daddy, and familia!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOCAL

IN GARNISHMENT ORDER VS 2 DPS OFFICIALS:

Manibusan says Yana replaced him as estate's counsel in 2007

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan informed the federal court Friday that he does not have in his possession or control money or property that belong to Department of Public Safety officials Aniceto and Ambrosio Ogumoro because he does not represent the Soledad T. Ogumoro estate anymore.

Manibusan also notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI that he or his law firm is not indebted or under liability to the Ogumoro brothers.

Manibusan disclosed that he withdrew as counsel for the estate administrator in the probate proceedings of the Soledad Ogumoro estate on July 27, 2007.

The former judge said attorney Reynaldo Yana replaced him as counsel for the estate administrator.

The federal court recently directed DPS and the Manibusan law firm to withhold the salary, money or property of the Ogumoro brothers in order to pay a court judgment now amounting to $3.9 million against them for an oil spill incident.

Aniceto Ogumoro is a former acting DPS commissioner, while Ambrosio Ogumoro is the CNMI range master.

In response to a federal court's order, Manibusan also submitted documents showing his withdrawal and eventual replacement by Yana with the consent of the estate's co-administrator, Ambrosio Ogumoro.

Yana and attorney Antonio Atalig are in jail since March 2008 when Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo found them in civil contempt for failing to return $1.3 million in attorneys' fees that the two lawyers received from the Angel Malite estate.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI's clerk of court had directed DPS and the Edward Manibusan law firm to hold the Ogumoro brothers' salaries and properties after Munson approved the U.S. government's application for a writ of garnishment.

A writ of garnishment is a legal process where the court orders the garnishee to hold money or property owed within 10 days after the writ is served.

Garnishee refers to a person, entity or corporation in possession of money or property of a defendant or judgment debtor.

In this case, the garnishees are the DPS and the Soledad Ogumoro estate through the Manibusan law firm. The defendants or judgment debtors are the Ogumoro brothers.

Man nabbed for alleged embezzlement

Police arrested Tuesday last week a 29-year-old man who allegedly embezzled his employer's money that came from apartment rental payments.

Jeffrey Bonsol Manalo was taken to the Superior Court on Thursday for theft/embezzlement, and theft by deception.

A $5,000 cash bail was imposed for Manalo's temporary liberty.

Detective Regino Celis Jr. stated in his report that Dr. Gene S. Eagle-Oden filed a complaint before the Department of Public Safety on March 16, 2009 against his employee, Manalo, for allegedly collecting rental payments but not turning over the money.

Celis said the embezzlement was discovered by Eagle-Oden's accountant when some of their tenants who were given notice to vacate for non-payment of rents complained that they have already given their payments to Manalo.

The accountant's audit showed the total rental payments received but not remitted to their office amounted to $7,100.

In other court news, police early last week arrested a 35-year-old man for allegedly beating up his 59-year-old girlfriend in fit of jealousy on Tinian.

Kabirol Islam Molla was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Molla allegedly slapped, punched and pushed the girlfriend last Thursday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Salazar lauds confirmation of Tony Babauta

WASHINGTON, D.C—The Office of Insular Affairs joins with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar in lauding the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Tony Babauta as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas.

"Tony brings experience and familiarity with the people and the policies of the U.S. insular areas and the freely associated states," Salazar said. "The department looks forward to the outstanding leadership that he will provide."

As Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas, Babauta will coordinate with other Executive Branch agencies Federal policy for Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa. He also has the responsibility to administer and to oversee Federal assistance provided to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau.

"We are very pleased that Tony has been confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas. We look forward to working with him in coordinating Federal policies and addressing the concerns of the U.S. territories and freely associated states," said Nikolao Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs. "It is wonderful to have another fellow islander who is familiar with and understands the islands."

Babauta was a senior advisor to Salazar and previously served as majority staff director for the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife in the U.S. House of Representatives. In the latter position he advised the full committee on policies affecting Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands as well as the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau.

Babauta was instrumental in advancing the amended Compact with the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam war claims legislation and the political status of Puerto Rico. He also oversaw the subcommittee's jurisdiction and responsibilities toward the Department of the Interior. Babauta has maintained close working relationships with insular Governors and freely associated state Presidents and Ambassadors and will continue to do so in his new capacity.

Babauta joined the House Committee on Natural Resources in 1998 as a professional staff member under its then Ranking Minority Member, Congressman George Miller (Dem.-Calif.). His service to the committee continued under the later Ranking Minority Member and now Chairman, Congressman Nick Rahall (Dem.-W.Va.).

President Obama re-established the position at the Assistant Secretary's level for the first time since 1995. This is the first time that an individual from a U.S. insular area has been named an Assistant Secretary of the Interior. ***(DOI)***

Business

Heavy hitters at Guam real estate conference

Akasaki

Aucello

Duncan

De Leon

Moreno

Captain

HAGATNA, Guam—Experts at the 5th Micronesia Real Estate Investment Conference in October will offer attendees the chance to hear lively discussion on topical real estate issues at a variety of panel discussions and workshops.

"Speakers typically have a great deal of passion for real estate and discussions can get quite animated," said W. Nicholas Captain, president of the Captain Real Estate Group of Companies, which is hosting the conference.

Panel and workshop subject matter is varied, he said. "This year we are including green issues as a topic," Captain said. "It's obviously of importance to investors and the construction industry and we certainly want to encourage good stewardship in the property market."

In addition, conference delegates will have the opportunity to question panelists and also network throughout the event.

Panel topics will include "Outlook 2010 to 2012," "Investment Opportunities: An External Perspective," "Credit Markets, Liquidity and Lending," "Alternative Investment Strategies," and "Investment Opportunity and Risk in Micronesia."

Workshops will focus on "Sustainable Development Revolution," Immigration, Investment and Unemployment Law Updates," "Regional Tourism Assessment," and "Guam's Economy in a Nutshell."

Participants at the panels and workshops include:

■ Leonard Calvo of Calvo Enterprises in Guam;

■ Christopher Felix of Century 21 Real Estate Management Co. in Guam;

■ Simon Sanchez of the Consolidated Commission on Utilities in Guam;

■ Michael Ysrael of Tanota Partners in Guam;

■ Guy Akasaki of Commercial Roofing Inc. in Hawaii;

■ F. Kevin Aucello of Pacific Advisory Services in Hawaii;

■ Juan Carlos Benitez of Cassidy and Associates in Washington D.C.;

■ Leo De Leon of Allegro Properties in the Philippines;

■ Steve Petersohn of LIM Advisors in Hong Kong;

■ David McVeigh of RIM Architects in Alaska;

■ Ruth Oh of Kobayashi Sugita & Goda of Hawaii;

■ Charles Duncan of Continental Airlines in Japan;

■ Joseph Bradley of the Bank of Guam;

■ Fred Annand of The Nature Conservancy in North Carolina;

■ Fong Wu of the Pago Bay Resort in Guam;

■ Victor Barrett, Zoning Office administrator of Saipan;

■ Siska Hutapea of Captain, Hutapea & Associates of Guam;

■ Gerry Cruz of Community First Federal Credit Union of Guam;

■ Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay of First Hawaiian Bank in Guam;

■ David McCall of ANZ Bank in Guam;

■ Ross Murakami of KMH LLP of Hawaii;

■ Richard Inman of Iron Bridge Capital Partners of Georgia;

■ Richard Moreno of Bridge Capital LLC on Saipan;

■ Mathews Pothen of Guam Shipyard;

■ Gerry Perez of the Guam Visitors Bureau;

■ Ronald Su of the Royal Orchid Hotel in Guam;

■ Robert DeCourteney of the Bank of the FSM in Pohnpei;

■ Jerry Filush of Deloitte & Touche in Guam;

■ Joseph "Jerry" Kramer of Pacific International Inc. of the Marshall Islands; and

■ Alan R. Seid of MIDCORP in Palau

The conference will be held on Oct. 2 and 3 at the LeoPalace Resort. The theme of the conference is "Micronesia Real Estate: Building Momentum."

The Micronesia Real Estate Investment Conference is held every two years. Attendance has risen each year and about 300 delegates attended in 2007.

Registration is proceeding apace, Captain said, and urged attendees to secure spaces while they are available. Registration can be made at www.captainrealestate.com. ***(PR)***

ON THE NET
www.captainrealestate.com

US airlines offer lightest fall schedules since 2001

DALLAS (AP)—The U.S. airline industry is shrinking to a size not seen since the months after the 2001 terror attacks.

The airlines have been trimming flights for the past two years, matching the falling demand for air travel. Additional capacity cuts are under way at American, the nation's second-largest carrier, and at No. 3 United.

It could get worse.

Most big airlines depend heavily on a relatively small chunk of passengers who pay the highest fares, "and that's generally business travelers," says Robert Mann, an aviation consultant in Port Washington, N.Y. "If business travel doesn't rebound, we're going to see further (capacity) cuts."

Less capacity means consumers will be left with fewer flights to choose from and planes will be crowded. Fewer seats normally means higher fares but that might not happen this time unless the economy begins a true recovery and passenger traffic picks up.

Airlines measure capacity in "seat miles," the number of miles flown multiplied by the number of seats on the planes. Capacity is crucial in the airline industry in the same way that inventories matter to car dealers and retailers. Too much capacity, and airlines have to cut prices, just as a department store stuck with too many suits and dresses will hold a fire sale. Airlines cut capacity by reducing the number of flights or using smaller planes that carry fewer passengers.

The Air Transport Association, the trade group for big U.S. airlines, estimates that carriers will offer fewer than 12.5 billion seat miles in the U.S. in the fourth quarter. That's not much more than the low of 12.1 billion late in 2001, when airlines were reeling from the Sept. 11 terror attacks, and it's down 13 percent from the fourth quarter of 2000.

AP source: American Airlines talking with JAL

AP

In this photo taken Aug. 7, 2009, Japan Airlines passenger planes park on the tarmac of Tokyo's Haneda Airport, Japan.

DALLAS (AP)—American Airlines parent AMR Corp. is negotiating for closer ties and possibly an investment in financially troubled Japan Airlines Corp., according to a person familiar with the talks.

American would like to form a joint business venture with JAL in which the two carriers would seek antitrust immunity to work closely in setting schedules and prices for service around the world, according to the person, who spoke Saturday on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the talks.

The negotiations, which grew more intense over the past four weeks and included meetings in Texas and Tokyo, raised the specter of a bidding war for a piece of JAL.

Delta Air Lines Inc., the world's biggest airline operator, also is in preliminary discussions about buying a stake in JAL for about $300 million. Delta could become a leading shareholder in JAL and get coveted access to Haneda Airport, which is close Tokyo's business district, according to a person briefed on the Delta situation.

A spokesman for Fort Worth, Texas-based AMR, Roger Frizzell, said, "We are in discussions at the senior executive level in Japan with JAL." He declined to comment further.

The person familiar with AMR's negotiations said that while AMR might invest in JAL, the two sides had not settled on an amount or the nature of the investment. AMR could buy a stake in JAL or invest in senior debt that could be converted to stock, the person said.

A cash infusion would help JAL, which reported a $1 billion loss in its most recent quarter.

American and JAL already have a so-called code-sharing agreement in which they sell seats on each other's flights. If they won immunity from antitrust laws, they could cooperate in setting prices and schedules. For example, instead of each operating a Chicago-to-Tokyo flight around the same time, they could stagger the flights to maximize traffic while splitting the revenue.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

IMF chief: Economic crisis not over yet

BERLIN (AP)—The global economic crisis isn't over yet, despite positive signals from Europe's biggest economies, the head of the International Monetary Fund warned in comments published Saturday. More work also needs to be done on financial-sector regulation, IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn was quoted as saying in an interview with German weekly Der Spiegel ahead of the Group of 20 summit in Pittsburgh Sept. 24-25. "In the minds of too many—not only regular people but also top politicians—the financial crisis is already behind us," Strauss-Kahn said, according to the report. "That way of thinking is dangerous," he was quoted as saying. "The global economic crisis continues despite the fact that Germany and France saw some positive growth figures for the last quarter."

$100M-plus broadband map runs into cost questions

WASHINGTON (AP)—The national stimulus package passed by Congress in February may have been too enthusiastic about spending money on one particular project: figuring out where broadband Internet access is available and how fast it is. The $787 billion stimulus bill championed by the Obama administration set aside up to $350 million to create a national broadband map that could guide policies aimed at expanding high-speed Internet access. That $350 million tag struck some people in the telecommunications industry as excessive, compared with existing, smaller efforts. The map won't even be done in time to help decide where to spend much of the $7.2 billion in stimulus money earmarked for broadband programs. Now it appears the final cost won't be as high as $350 million—though just how much it will be is unclear.

China: Trade penalties will hurt US relations

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's decision to impose trade penalties on Chinese tires has infuriated Beijing at a time when the U.S. badly needs Chinese help on climate change, nuclear standoffs with Iran and North Korea and the global economy. China condemned the White House's announcement late Friday as protectionist and said it violated global trade rules. At home, the punitive tariffs on all car and light truck tires coming into the U.S. from China may placate union supporters who are important to the president's health care push. To the White House, it was "simply about enforcing the rules of the road and creating a trade system that is based on those rules and is fair for everyone," spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters traveling with Obama on Saturday to a health care event in Minneapolis.

Nation

Nobel Prize winner Norman Borlaug dies at 95

DALLAS (AP)—Agricultural scientist Norman Borlaug, the father of the "green revolution" who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in combating world hunger and saving hundreds of millions of lives, died Saturday in Texas, a Texas A&M University spokeswoman said. He was 95.

Borlaug died just before 11 p.m. Saturday at his home in Dallas from complications of cancer, said school spokeswoman Kathleen Phillips. Phillips said Borlaug's granddaughter told her about his death. Borlaug was a distinguished professor at the university in College Station.

The Nobel committee honored Borlaug in 1970 for his contributions to high-yield crop varieties and bringing other agricultural innovations to the developing world. Many experts credit the green revolution with averting global famine during the second half of the 20th century and saving perhaps 1 billion lives.

Thanks to the green revolution, world food production more than doubled between 1960 and 1990. In Pakistan and India, two of the nations that benefited most from the new crop varieties, grain yields more than quadrupled over the period.

"We would like his life to be a model for making a difference in the lives of others and to bring about efforts to end human misery for all mankind," his children said in a statement. "One of his favorite quotes was, 'Reach for the stars. Although you will never touch them, if you reach hard enough, you will find that you get a little 'star dust' on you in the process.'"

Borlaug

Equal parts scientist and humanitarian, the Iowa-born Borlaug realized improved crop varieties were just part of the answer, and pressed governments for farmer-friendly economic policies and improved infrastructure to make markets accessible. A 2006 book about Borlaug is titled "The Man Who Fed the World."

"He has probably done more and is known by fewer people than anybody that has done that much," said Dr. Ed Runge, retired head of Texas A&M University's Department of Soil and Crop Sciences and a close friend who persuaded Borlaug teach at the school. "He made the world a better place - a much better place. He had people helping him, but he was the driving force."

Borlaug began the work that led to his Nobel in Mexico at the end of World War II. There he used innovative breeding techniques to produce disease-resistant varieties of wheat that produced much more grain than traditional strains.

He and others later took those varieties and similarly improved strains of rice and corn to Asia, the Middle East, South America and Africa.

"More than any other single person of his age, he has helped to provide bread for a hungry world," Nobel Peace Prize committee chairman Aase Lionaes said in presenting the award to Borlaug. "We have made this choice in the hope that providing bread will also give the world peace."

During the 1950s and 1960s, public health improvements fueled a population boom in underdeveloped nations, leading to concerns that agricultural systems could not keep up with growing food demand. Borlaug's work often is credited with expanding agriculture at just the moment such an increase in production was most needed.

"We got this thing going quite rapidly," Borlaug told The Associated Press in a 2000 interview. "It came as a surprise that something from a Third World country like Mexico could have such an impact."

His successes in the 1960s came just as books like "The Population Bomb" were warning readers that mass starvation was inevitable.

ACROSS THE NATION

Reports: US to give Afghan detainees new rights

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is preparing new rules that would give hundreds of prisoners being held by the U.S. military in Afghanistan the right to challenge their detentions, according to published reports. The guidelines would for the first time allow about 600 prisoners held at an American-run prison at the Bagram Air Base to call witnesses and submit evidence in their defense, The Washington Post and New York Times reported in stories Saturday on the Web. The guidelines came to light as the Obama administration is reviewing Bush-era detention policies and determining where to make changes. The proposed rules were given to Congress in mid-July for a 60 day review and were expected to be made public this week.

Dangerous staph germs found at West Coast beaches

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Dangerous staph bacteria have been found in sand and water for the first time at five public beaches along the coast of Washington, and scientists think the state is not the only one with this problem. The germ is MRSA, or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus—a hard-to-treat bug once rarely seen outside of hospitals but that increasingly is spreading in ordinary community settings such as schools, locker rooms and gyms. The germ causes nasty skin infections as well as pneumonia and other life-threatening problems. It spreads mostly through human contact. Little is known about environmental sources that also may harbor the germ.

Mich. man leaves town after cops say he was target

OWOSSO, Mich. (AP)—A real estate agent told he was the third target of a shooting spree that left an abortion protester and a business owner dead said Saturday he fled his home after the violence that claimed two lives in their small Michigan city. The man charged with the killings, meanwhile, was taken from jail to a hospital to undergo surgery for a self-inflicted wound to his arm, according to a county prosecutor. James Howe of Owosso said his family was upset after police told him he was an intended target of the Friday shooting spree. Howe declined to discuss or say whether he knew Harlan James Drake, 33, who is accused of shooting to death anti-abortion activist James Pouillon and gravel pit owner Mike Fuoss.

Suspect falls asleep, hostages escape Kan. home

DOVER, Kan. (AP)—Two newlyweds held hostage in their eastern Kansas home on Saturday escaped unharmed when the man holding them captive fell asleep, after they gave him pillows and a blanket, authorities and family members said. Jesse Dennis Dimmick, 23, was shot and injured when confronted by officers as they stormed the beige, one-story ranch-style house in Dover, a tiny town about 15 miles west of Topeka. Police said Dimmick—wanted in connection to a homicide in Colorado and burglaries in three states—crashed his car into the couple's front yard after leading police on a chase. Family members said the couple befriended Dimmick after he forced his way into their home. They offered him something to drink and gave him pillows and blankets so he could lay down in their bedroom. When he dozed off, they ran from the house.

Fmr. Blagojevich adviser dies, days before prison

CHICAGO (AP)—A former chief fundraiser for ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich died Saturday, just days before he was to begin serving at least eight years in federal prison for fraud that included using his company's money to pay gambling debts and claiming it as a business expense. Christopher G. Kelly, 51, was reportedly found Friday night in a lumber yard parking lot in Country Club Hills, a town just southwest of Chicago, where police and the FBI searched for clues Saturday night, Mayor Dwight Welch said. He said they were investigating it as a suicide, but were going to take the investigation "to the highest level we can."

Thousands of downtown DC protesters blast Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tens of thousands of protesters fed up with government spending marched to the U.S. Capitol on Saturday, showing their disdain for the president's health care plan with slogans such as "Obamacare makes me sick" and "I'm not your ATM."

The line of protesters clogged several blocks near the Capitol, according to the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency. Demonstrators chanted "enough, enough" and "We the People." Others yelled "You lie, you lie!" and "Pelosi has to go," referring to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

AP
A demonstrators holds up a portrait of President Barack Obama on Capitol Hill in Washington, Saturday, Sept. 12,2009, during a taxpayer rally.

Throngs of people waved U.S. flags and held signs reading "Go Green Recycle Congress" and "Obama Bin Lyin.'" Men wore colonial costumes as they listened to speakers who warned of "judgment day"—Election Day 2010.

Other signs—reflecting the growing intensity of the health care debate—depicted President Barack Obama with the signature mustache of Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler. Many referred to Obama as a socialist or communist, and another imposed his face on that of the villainous Joker from "Batman."

Richard Brigle, 57, a Vietnam War veteran and former Teamster, came from Paw Paw, Mich. He said health care needs to be reformed—but not according to Obama's plan.

"My grandkids are going to be paying for this. It's going to cost too much money that we don't have," he said while marching, bracing himself with a wooden cane as he walked.

FreedomWorks Foundation, a conservative organization led by former House Majority Leader Dick Armey, organized several groups from across the country for what they billed as a "March on Washington."

Organizers say they built on momentum from the April "tea party" demonstrations held nationwide to protest tax policies, along with growing resentment over the economic stimulus packages and bank bailouts.

Armey and other speakers directed their ire at Pelosi—Armey took a photo, telling the crowd he wanted to be able to prove to her they were there.

"If it's necessary, we'll come back here next year," he said.

Many protesters said they paid their own way to the event—an ethic they believe should be applied to the government. They say unchecked spending on things like a government-run health insurance option could increase inflation and lead to economic ruin.

Terri Hall, 45, of Starke, Fla., said she felt compelled to become political for the first time this year because she was upset by government spending.

Obama says status quo no solution on health care

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—President Barack Obama assailed critics of his health care initiative Saturday, seeking to grab the megaphone from his opponents and boost momentum in his drive for congressional passage of his chief domestic priority.

"I will not accept the status quo. Not this time. Not now," the president told an estimated 15,000 people during a rally that had every feel of a campaign event, right down to chants of "Fired up, ready to go!" and "Yes, we can!"

Days after urging Democrats and Republicans in Congress to come together, an invigorated Obama said his plan incorporates ideas from those on both sides and he promised to continue to seek common ground.

"If you come to me with a serious set of proposals, I will be there to listen. My door is always open," the president said.

But he warned that he wouldn't waste time with people who have decided "that it's better politics to kill this plan than improve it." He also said he wouldn't stand by while special interests "use the same old tactics to keep things exactly the way they are." And he warned, "If you misrepresent what's in the plan, we will call you out."

The pitch came in friendly territory. Democratic-leaning Minnesota is one of the nation's healthiest states, with relatively few uninsured residents, cost-effective medical care and top health care providers such as the Mayo Clinic.

His speech at the Target Center was part of a weekend campaign by the White House to give the president as much exposure as possible after his prime-time address Wednesday to Congress.

At the rally, on network television and in his weekend radio and Internet address, Obama again sought to take the reins of the debate, a task that has proved elusive over the past three months. The challenge is both to energize his supporters and make people with insurance care about his proposal.

In Minnesota, he cited a new Treasury Department analysis that found that nearly half of all people under age 65 go without health coverage at some point in a 10-year period. The data came from a study that tracked the insurance status of a sample of people from 1997-2006.

Asia

Philippine floods kill 11

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Heavy monsoon rains have left 11 people dead and forced more than 74,000 to flee flooding in the northern Philippines, the government's disaster agency said Saturday.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council said the deaths occurred Wednesday through Friday after widespread flooding and landslides on the main island of Luzon.

Landslides killed two children in Laguna province south of Manila and three security guards of a mining company in Zambales province west of the capital, the disaster council said. Six others drowned in raging floodwaters—one in Ilocos Sur province, three in Pampanga, one in Bulacan and one in Zambales.

The agency said three people were missing—two who were swept away by floodwaters and a fishermen who hasn't come home since Thursday.

More than 4,000 people have fled to government-managed evacuation centers and about 70,000 others have sought shelter with relatives and friends, the agency said.

The weather bureau warned that coastal waters will be rough this weekend in the affected areas of the north, but the coast guard has not stopped ferry operations.

About 20 typhoons and storms a year lash the Philippine archipelago.

Bomb blast in Kashmir kills 3

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Suspected Islamic militants set off a powerful bomb blast Saturday in Indian-administered Kashmir, killing three people and wounding at least seven others, police said.

The explosives were packed in a car parked near the central jail in the main city of Srinagar and detonated by remote control as a police bus drove past, said senior police official Hemant Lohia.

Lohia said two policemen and a female passer-by were killed instantly, and seven wounded people were hospitalized. He described the condition of at least three of them as critical.

A Pakistan-based militant group claimed responsibility for the blast, a news agency report said.

Press Trust of India said a Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen spokesman called news organizations in Srinagar to say it had set off the blast. There was no immediate independent confirmation of the group's claim.

Since 1989, more than a dozen Islamic militant groups have been fighting for Kashmir's independence from India or its merger with neighboring Pakistan. More than 68,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the conflict.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan, both of which claim it in its entirety. The South Asian rivals have fought two wars over its control.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the militants. Pakistan denies the charge, saying it only gives moral and diplomatic support to the rebels.

ASIAN BRIEFS

38 killed in fire at Kazakh drug rehab clinic

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP)—Officials in Kazakhstan say 38 people have been killed in a fire at a drug treatment center. The Emergency Situations Ministry says the blaze broke out early Sunday and spread over an area of 7,000 sq. feet (650 square meters) in Taldykorgan in the Central Asian nation's south. Authorities say emergency workers evacuated 40 people from the building during the fire. Violations of safety regulations are common in the former Soviet state and deaths caused by accidents and fires are frequent. According to Emergency Situations Ministry statistics there have been almost 10,000 fires in Kazakhstan in the first eight months of 2009.

5 US troops among 50 killed in Afghan violence

KABUL (AP)—About 50 civilians, security forces and militants were killed in a wave of violence around Afghanistan, including a bomb that left 14 Afghan travelers dead in one of the country's most dangerous regions. Five American soldiers died in two attacks using roadside bombs. The attacks Friday and Saturday reached a broad swath of the country, demonstrating the spread of the Taliban insurgency, which had been largely confined to the country's south and east in the years after the 2001 U.S. invasion. Half of those killed in the most recent attacks were civilians.

China sentences 3 to prison over needle attacks

BEIJING (AP)—A court in western China's Xinjiang region sentenced three people to up to 15 years in prison Saturday in the first trials over a series of mysterious syringe attacks that led to mass protests against the local government. The three, all ethnic Uighurs, were sentenced by the Intermediate People's Court in the regional capital, Urumqi, state media reported. Some 500 people have reported being attacked in the city, but only about 100 have showed evidence of being pricked. None have suffered from illness, poisoning or other effects.

SKorea not opposed to US-NKorea direct talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea would not oppose the United States holding direct talks with North Korea to persuade the communist regime to rejoin stalled international nuclear disarmament negotiations, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Friday that Washington was preparing to accept Pyongyang's offer for one-on-one talks as part of efforts to resume the six-nation negotiations.

2 killed in attack on Pakistani troops

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A bomb blast killed two paramilitary troops Sunday in Pakistan's Khyber region, where security forces are pressing ahead with an offensive to secure a major supply route for foreign forces in Afghanistan. Also in the northwest, a suicide bomber attempted to attack a security post in the Swat Valley but was killed before he could strike. The incident showed the region was still dangerous despite the recent arrests of five militant commanders there. The bomb in the Mandiknas area of Khyber was targeting a security convoy and was detonated by remote control. Four people were wounded in the blast.

'No winners' yet in Afghan poll, Karzai ahead

KABUL (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai hung onto his 54 percent to 28 percent lead over his closest rival Sunday in the presidential contest as the vote count ground on in the face of fraud allegations. Despite the lopsided margin, the U.N. mission warned there were "no winners" yet from last month's election, which has come down to the incumbent and former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abduallah. Karzai's lead could still be cut to below 50 percent, depending on the outcome of investigations by a U.N.-backed group into hundreds of fraud allegations. If that happens, Karzai will face Abdullah in a runoff.

World

Bombs at Iraq shrine kill 4

BAGHDAD (AP)—Two bombs exploded back to back near a Shiite shrine in central Baghdad where worshippers had gathered in prayer Saturday, killing four people and injuring 24, police and hospital officials said.

The first bomb went off next to the tomb of a revered ninth century religious figure, Sheik Othman al-Omari. Then a car bomb exploded in a nearby parking lot as crowds were gathering. The blasts damaged the shrine and blew out the windows of neighboring buildings.

Attacks blamed on al-Qaida in Iraq and other Sunni extremists are again targeting Shiite civilians. Violence between Shiites and Sunnis drove the country to the brink of civil war in 2006 and 2007, though it has ebbed since.

Iraqi and U.S. officials say the attacks are aimed at rekindling that violence, but so far Shiite groups have reacted with restraint.

The police and hospital officials who gave details of the shrine attack and the casualty toll spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not permitted to speak to journalists.

In what appeared to be another attempted sectarian attack, a bomb was found hidden inside a Quran at the Shiite Kazimiyah shrine in northern Baghdad, an Interior Ministry official said.

Earthquake rattles Venezuela capital

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—An earthquake shook Venezuela's capital and nearby states Saturday, injuring 14 people and causing damage to a few buildings.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported a preliminary magnitude of 6.4 for the quake, saying the epicenter was off Venezuela's Caribbean coast 65 miles (110 kilometers) west of Caracas. The head of Venezuela's seismological agency, Francisco Garces, put the quake at magnitude 6.2, followed by an aftershock registering 4.0.

Two young people, ages 9 and 26, suffered serious leg injuries, and 12 other people had minor injuries, Justice Minister Tareck El Aissami said.

El Aissami said western Falcon state reported the most structural problems, with seven houses and two other buildings damaged. Two houses were reported damaged in neighboring Lara state, where the wall of a medical clinic also collapsed, state civil protection director Hector Vargas told the state-run Bolivarian News Agency.

Buildings swayed as the quake rocked Caracas about 3:40 p.m. local time (4:10 p.m. EDT, 20:10GMT). Only a few people evacuated buildings to stand outside as a rainstorm slowed traffic. No injured were reported in the capital, El Aissami said.

The head of Venezuela's national civil protection agency, Luis Diaz, said authorities would evaluate two Caracas malls, including one where glass had shattered, to ensure their safety.

Report: British special forces train Libyan troops

AP

Libyan Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, who was found guilty of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing but recently released from his Scottish prison on compassionate grounds, is seen with medical staff and unidentified others as he is visited by a group of African parliamentarians, not pictured, at Tripoli Medical Center in Tripoli, Libya Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009.

LONDON (AP)—Some of Britain's most elite soldiers have been training Libyan forces in counterterrorism and surveillance for the past six months, a newspaper said Saturday.

The Daily Telegraph said a contingent of between four and 14 men from the Special Air Service, or SAS, were working with Col. Moammar Gadhafi's soldiers in Libya, a country once notorious for its support of terrorism.

The paper cited an unidentified SAS source as saying that the training was seen as part of the deal to release Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, whose return to Libya last month outraged Americans and raised questions over the nature of Britain's relationship with Gadhafi's authoritarian regime.

Britain's military refused to comment on the Telegraph's report. The Foreign Office said Britain had "ongoing cooperation with Libya in the field of defense," but refused to comment on the issue of special forces. It denied in a statement that the defense cooperation had anything to do with al-Megrahi's release.

Israeli President Peres to leave hospital Sunday

JERUSALEM (AP)—A spokeswoman says Israeli President Shimon Peres will be discharged from a hospital a day after fainting on stage.

The 86-year-old Peres fainted briefly after a talk Saturday in Tel Aviv, then revived on his own a few seconds later.

Spokeswoman Ayelet Frisch blamed Peres' notoriously grueling schedule for the collapse.

Frisch says tests conducted at the hospital indicated no problems. She says Peres would meet later Sunday with U.S. Mideast envoy George Mitchell.

Peres is not known to suffer from any health problems.

Peres was elected to parliament on the Labor Party ticket in 1959 and held a succession of Israel's most senior posts.

In 1994 he shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Health & Fitness

A running program that fits your stride

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The best-laid resolutions to get fit can quickly crumble with no plan in place and no budget for a personal trainer. Don't worry—we've asked fitness experts to map out programs designed to remove the confusion and intimidation. Here's a running program courtesy of Andrew Lockton (www.andrewlockton.com), a professional triathlete, private running and triathlon coach, and track coach for the L.A. Leggers running club (www.laleggers.org).

Week 1

The main goal is to establish a routine, Lockton says -- so set a time to run and hit the ground. "The key is making this a part of everyday life."

That means determining the best time to run every day -- mornings before work, in the middle of the day or in the evening -- without making excuses about having to take the dog for a walk or needing to pick up dinner on the way home.

Getting into that routine is key, he says, because it tamps down the desire to put it off. "You shouldn't be making a decision about what you're going to do each time," he says. "You've already decided, so just keep it going."

Don't worry too much about distance in the very beginning -- just run, and do it consistently. But, ideally, strive for covering three miles five to six days a week via running, walking or a combination (if you're skipping two days, don't make them consecutive -- it's too easy to fall off the wagon). While that might seem daunting, it can be worked up to gradually. "The key isn't so much pushing yourself really hard," Lockton says, "but getting into a pattern and covering that distance."

Run on whatever terrain is available -- track, sidewalk, dirt road. Save the treadmill for emergencies only -- Lockton isn't a fan of the machines, because the biomechanics of running on a moving surface are different from running on a stationary one. Most of your running will be done outside, so get used to that.

There are various schools of thought on stretching. Lockton advises to do some light stretching after a run when the body is warmed up but never before. When you start running, begin at a pace that's about a minute or two slower than your usual speed to warm up the body and prepare it for the work ahead.

Take this week to set goals. "If you're just going out haphazardly, it's harder to find an internal motivation," Lockton says. "Have a clearly defined goal, whether it's losing weight, being able to run consistently or doing a race -- something tangible that keeps you motivated." If motivation is a recurring problem, consider running with a friend or joining a running group. "Having people you're accountable to is huge," Lockton says. "It helps keep you to that routine and structure and offers fewer opportunities to let yourself slack off."

Week 2

Continue the same running routine and aim for running the entire three miles if starting from a walk or walk/run.

During this time, runners might experience a few aches and pains; some can be chalked up to using new muscles. But chronic discomfort shouldn't be ignored. "When something hurts, don't run through it," Lockton says. "Figure out the problem and fix it, and then continue." An orthotic could be in order to correct an overpronation (excessive inward rolling of the foot), or a complete running-gait overhaul might be needed. You might need the help of a running coach to work on biomechanics or to consult a podiatrist or orthopedist who works with athletes.

Prospective members check out the facilities at the new Pilates Center of the Palms Resort and Spa Saipan. The main goal when exercising is to establish a routine, so set a time to run and hit the ground.

Diet will vary depending on whether the goal is weight loss, weight gain or weight maintenance, but Lockton suggests all runners eat more fresh fruit and vegetables and avoid going heavy on the bread and pasta. "The biggest mistake people make when they're starting a running program is to compensate for the amount of work they think they're doing by eating more," he says. "They end up overcompensating. If you're running three miles a day, you shouldn't need any extra calories unless you're at the bare minimum, since you're only burning about 300 calories during the run."

Lockton also advises eating more meals at home than at restaurants, because hidden fats and calories in restaurant foods can derail healthy aspirations. As for alcohol, Lockton says the pluses and minuses of drinking should be weighed by each runner: "The key is understanding what you're doing," he says. "Your muscles might be more relaxed the next morning, but your sleep might not have been as good." New exercise programs are easier to adopt if they allow for the occasional glass of wine or piece of cheesecake, he adds. "If you try to change to a spartan lifestyle, you might have quick results, but five weeks down the road you're probably going to quit," he says. "You have to have balance."

Week 3

This week is about progression. Begin to incorporate 20- to 30-second bouts of acceleration five or six times during two runs a week, not on consecutive days. Don't try for an all-out sprint; just push a bit more and stay relaxed. Make sure you leave enough energy to complete the run. Allow yourself time to recover after the interval; walk or jog slowly to bring the heart rate down.

"You're getting the heart used to bursts of speed," Lockton says, "and you're letting the muscles also get used to running fast." This eventually will help increase speed and muscle growth as well as improve the cardiovascular system to make longer runs easier. Lockton adds that it's important to stay focused on how your body feels. Let it tell you how hard you can push.

In addition to speed work, increase the length of one weekend run by a mile or two.

As the running intensifies, so does the need for sleep, because this is when the body recovers from its efforts, Lockton says. "If sleep is cut short, it's more likely you'll feel little strains and wear and tear." Missing an hour or two here and there isn't critical, but as a sleep deficit accumulates, recovery might be compromised.

Week 4 and Beyond

Repeat the routine for Monday through Friday of Week 1. "By the end of the third week, we're putting a lot of stress on the body it wasn't used to," Lockton says, "and you need to let your body adapt to the changes."

So, to give the muscles a break, decrease the amount and intensity of the runs, or ditch the running altogether and cross-train. Bicycle, swim, hike -- any activity that's not too taxing, is aerobic and doesn't involve a lot of strength work. Whenever possible, to maintain your routine, do these activities at the same time you normally schedule your runs and take the same days off.

As your program progresses, go back to this five-day recovery plan every four weeks to allow the body to recuperate. Then, on the weekend, resume the running plan and increase the distance by a mile or two.

In the ensuing weeks, as you become more fit, gradually increase the speed bouts to 45 seconds or a minute, and strive to decrease the recovery time in between. Continue to increase distance on weekends until you can run easily for an hour.

At this point, you might want to reassess your running goals and decide whether you want to work with a running coach or join a group to begin training for a race. Once a routine is established and the running kinks have been worked out, Lockton says, runners begin to look forward to training. "It becomes easier on the body, and it's a much more enjoyable experience."

Study: Swine flu easily overtakes other strains

AP

This photo released by Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Mich., and taken Friday, Sept. 4, shows business operations director Amanda Lefeld, left, and campus medical staff chief Dr. Kimberly Keller, right, as they prepare flu kits for the start of school. The kits are being distributed to students as part of an anti-swine flu effort.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Put swine flu in a room with other strains of influenza and it doesn't mix into a new superbug—it takes over, researchers reported Tuesday. University of Maryland researchers deliberately co-infected ferrets to examine one of the worst fears about the new swine flu. But fortunately, the flu didn't mutate. The researchers carefully swabbed the ferrets' nasal cavities and found no evidence of gene-swapping.

The animals who caught both kinds of flu, however, had worse symptoms. And they easily spread the new swine flu, what scientists formally call the 2009 H1N1 virus, to their uninfected ferret neighbors—but didn't spread regular winter flu strains nearly as easily.

In other words, it's no surprise that swine flu has become the world's dominant strain of influenza. It's not under evolutionary pressure right now to mix and mutate while it has a clear biological advantage over other kinds of flu, concluded the Maryland team led by virologist Daniel Perez.

The Maryland study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, reinforces concern about how easily swine flu may sweep through the country.

"The results suggest that 2009 H1N1 influenza may out-compete seasonal flu virus strains and may be more communicable as well," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "These new data, while preliminary, underscore the need for vaccinating against both seasonal influenza and the 2009 H1N1 influenza this fall and winter."

Seasonal flu vaccine is available around the country now, and swine flu vaccine is expected to arrive in mid-October.

The U.S. has closely watched how swine flu rapidly dominated the Southern Hemisphere's winter, as authorities here prepare a fall resurgence. In Australia alone, eight of every 10 people who tested positive for influenza had the new pandemic strain. While it seems no more deadly than seasonal flu, it claims different victims: Seasonal flu kills mostly people over 65. The new swine flu spreads most easily in children and young adults, and so far has killed mostly people in their 20s, 30s and 40s.

The study is posted on PLoS Currents: Influenza, a Web site operated by the Public Library of Science to rapidly share scientific flu information.

Life & Style

All quiet on this spiritual front

By DUKE HELFAND
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

BOWIE, Ariz.—Deep in a remote desert valley, where rattlesnakes lurk in the scrub, Stephane Dreyfus and several dozen other Buddhists are preparing to undergo a mind-altering journey:

Three years, three months, three weeks and three days of silence.

There will be no word from the outside world in the Great Retreat, only the deafening quiet of rock and cactus, with seemingly endless time to ponder the emptiness of life.

Dreyfus and his fellow adherents hope to find enlightenment in the silence, a gift they plan to share when they emerge from their seclusion.

They know that outsiders might dismiss them as eccentrics on a strange utopian trip, but their resumes suggest otherwise. Among them are an airline pilot, a dermatologist, a retired biochemist and a former television editor.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Lama Dome is a rammed earth dome being built on top of a hill.

They're jettisoning the trappings of their middle-class lives to carry on a Buddhist tradition that traces its lineage through the Dalai Lamas of Tibet. For many in the group, that means leaving behind six-figure incomes, young children or aging parents for the solitude of cramped retreat cabins made of adobe, wood—even hay bales.

Prolonged silence, they explain, is the only way to reach the deep level of inner awareness required to bring true happiness.

"If I can get to the position of being perfectly free of suffering and develop high levels of mental clarity that cause enlightenment, I can show others how to get there perfectly, quickly," said Dreyfus, 32, who left a job as an assistant editor on "The Bachelor" to teach yoga and prepare for his undertaking.

Dreyfus, will be joined by his fiancee, Jessica Kung, a Yale University graduate and also a yoga teacher.

When they start the retreat late next year in this corner of southeastern Arizona, they will be newlyweds, sharing a 500-square-foot cabin, communicating only through gestures and facial expressions, and refraining from physical intimacy. Such pleasure, they both say, would dissipate prana—inner energy—distracting from the important karmic work at hand.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Geshe Michael Roach, 56, left, and Lama Christie McNally, 36, are spritual leaders at a retreat valley near Bowie, Ariz.

"I feel a desire to have some serious Ph.D.-like study in yoga (and) meditation," said Kung, 27. "There is nothing better to do with my youth."

Such talk provokes bewilderment, skepticism and even anger from the family members of many of those who will join the retreat.

Hubert Dreyfus, a professor of existential philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley, worries that his son Stephane is wasting his talent for writing and filmmaking to pursue ideas he sees as irrational.

The elder Dreyfus conceded his son is happier than ever. Still, he can't understand why anyone would leave loved ones behind to disappear into the desert—in this case, for 1,190 days.

"I'm just torn," said Dreyfus, 79. "I want grandchildren."

Enlightenment isn't cheap.

Each retreat participant will need $60,000 to $75,000 to build a cabin and pay for three years of food and supplies.

Some already have set aside the money. A few are searching for sponsors at yoga and meditation seminars, or relying on the generosity of others on the retreat.

"I'm waiting for a miracle," Ben Kramer, a 33-year-old Floridian, said recently as he practiced yoga poses with his girlfriend inside an adobe temple not far from the retreat site.

Those on retreat will cook for themselves in cabins equipped with kitchens and bathrooms. Power will be supplied by solar panels or propane tanks, and members probably will have air horns to summon help if something goes wrong.

Volunteer caretakers, fellow Buddhists who live nearby, will help by growing or shopping for food and dropping it off twice a week. David Stumpf, a retired plant biochemist from the University of Arizona who is planning to join the retreat, is in charge of installing a water supply system. .

Stumpf has nearly finished building the 600-square-foot cabin he and his wife, Susan, will share on a small patch of earth surrounded by paddle cactus and ocotillo plants, whose red blooms shoot from the ground like Fourth of July fireworks.

Surveying the rolling landscape and cloud-streaked sky one recent day, the 56-year-old proclaimed the setting ideal for deep meditation.

"This place is stunning at sunrise," he said. "The lighting on the hillside is just magical."

To reach "retreat valley," drive 107 miles east from Tucson on Interstate 10 through empty stretches of desert to the small town of Bowie, then head south on a narrow asphalt road. From there, a rutted dirt road leads to Diamond Mountain University, a nonprofit Buddhist campus where footpaths connect an adobe temple, a tented student lounge and Mongolian-style yurts.

A short stretch of road from the university to retreat valley is even more primitive, coursing through brush-covered hillsides once home to a cattle ranch.

In the heart of the valley is a single yurt within sight of several cabins under construction. This is the home of Geshe Michael Roach and Lama Christie McNally, the university's founders.

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Students Nying Po, 37, left to right, Nocole Vigna, 39, and Stephane Dreyfus, 32, feed paper into a drum mixer with water and dirt to make adobe bricks in front of the Lama House at the Buddhist retreat southeast of Tucson.

Roach and McNally were born in Los Angeles, two decades apart. Both grew up as Episcopalians.

An altar boy in his youth, Roach, 56, thought he might become a minister. Then he traveled to India while studying religion, Sanskrit and Russian at Princeton University.

Roach spent two decades studying at monasteries in India and the United States. He was ordained a monk in his early 30s and later earned a Geshe degree, the equivalent of a doctorate of divinity, one of the first Westerners to do so.

McNally, 36, who studied philosophy and literature at New York University and then traveled to Tibet and Nepal, met Roach at one of his teachings in New York in the late 1990s. They have been spiritual—though celibate—partners for a decade.

The two devote themselves to disseminating Buddhist teachings. They have written several books on meditation and yoga, and have preserved ancient manuscripts in an extensive online database.

"We believe that everybody is in pain right now, because they have all these negative thoughts running in their heads all the time," Roach said recently. "If you can figure out how to stop your own pain, then you can teach other people how to stop theirs."

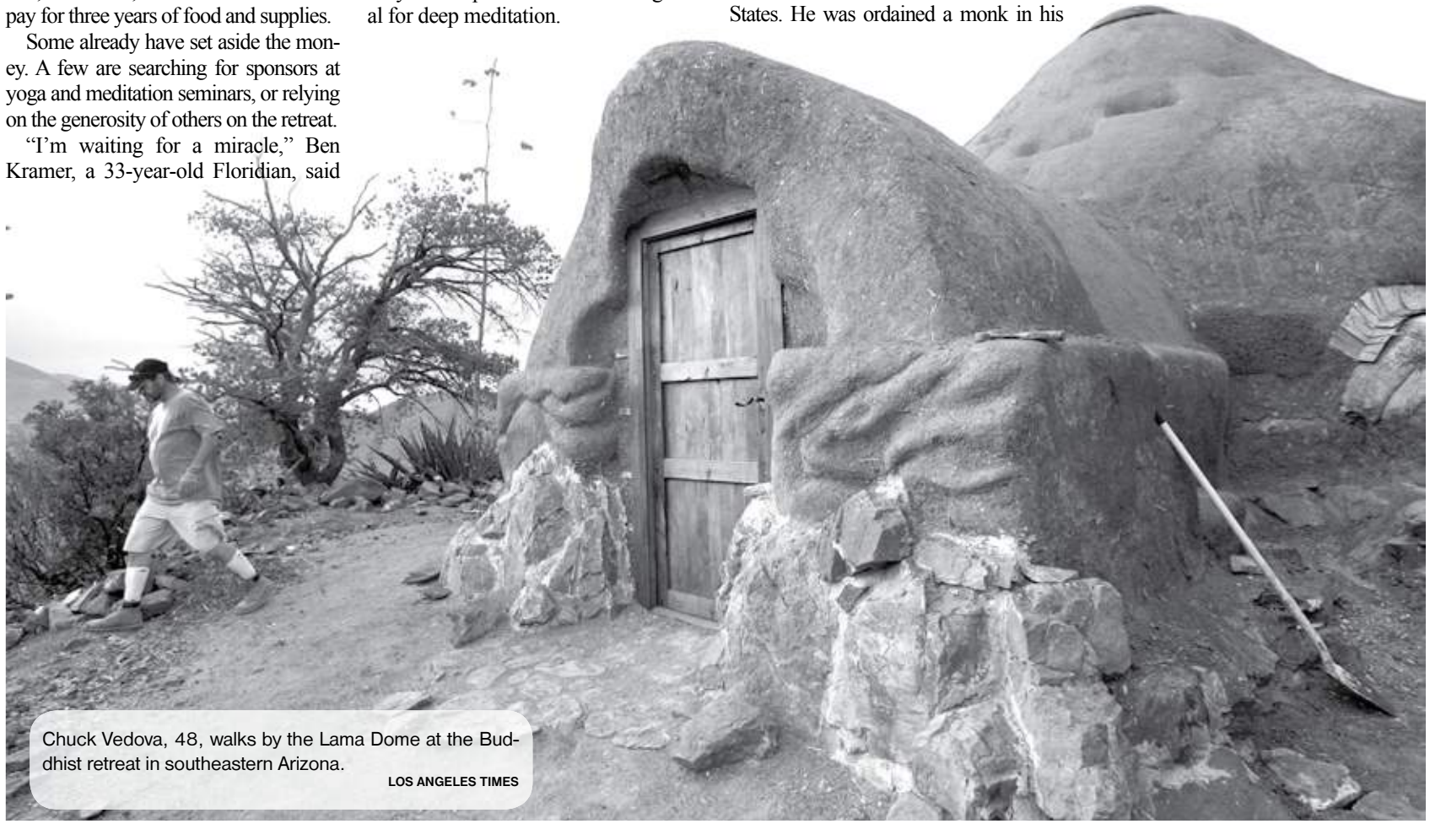
Despite the harsh conditions, Bill McMichael of Chicago jumps at every opportunity to visit Diamond Mountain, sometimes bringing along his daughter and son, ages 7 and 9.

The 42-year-old American Airlines pilot said he intends to quit his job flying DC-9s to enter the three-year retreat. He also will take a lengthy leave from his children, who will live with his former wife. Friends will bring the kids to retreat valley two or three times a year, but McMichael will not speak to them, communicating only through gestures or notes.

"Leaving the kids is the most difficult part," he said.

McMichael has tried to explain the retreat in terms the youngsters can understand, telling them that he is going to become an angel and reach heaven, and that he will show them how to become angels too. He sees a rare opportunity to bequeath ancient wisdom.

"I can give them something that death can't take away," he said.



Chuck Vedova, 48, walks by the Lama Dome at the Buddhist retreat in southeastern Arizona.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Fey an Emmy winner for Palin mimicry? You betcha

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Is Tina Fey an Emmy winner? You betcha. Fey received an Emmy Award on Saturday for her impersonation of Republican vice presidential contender Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live."

Accepting her trophy for best guest actress in a comedy, Fey thanked "SNL" producer Lorne Michaels and her parents, "who are lifelong Republicans, for their patience."

She was honored at the Creative Arts Primetime Emmys, which recognize technical and other achievements for the 2008-09 season and preceded next weekend's main ceremony. Fey has the chance for more awards: She could repeat last year's win as best actress in a comedy series for "30 Rock," and the show also could again claim top comedy honors.

Justin Timberlake was another "SNL" winner Saturday, honored as best guest actor in a comedy series.

On the drama side, Michael J. Fox won the guest actor award for his turn on "Rescue Me," and Ellen Burstyn was honored as best guest actress for "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

"I always wanted one of these," Burstyn said, winning her first Emmy after being nominated five times.

Neither Timberlake nor Fox were on hand to accept.

Kathy Griffin was host of the nearly four-hour ceremony, her trademark outrageous humor intact with risque jokes and filmed bits.

An edited, shorter version of the ceremony will air Friday on E! at 1 p.m. EDT.

The top network winner was HBO with 16 trophies, followed by NBC with 11. Fox and ABC each won eight awards, with CBS, PBS and Cartoon Network each claiming six.

PBS' "Little Dorrit," an adaptation of the Dickens novel, was the most-honored program with four awards. Several shows, including the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics and "American Idol," received three creative arts trophies.

Next Sunday's Emmy ceremony, with Neil Patrick Harris as host, will air on CBS.

AP

Actress Tina Fey poses backstage with her Emmy for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series for her turn as former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin on "Saturday Night Live," at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009.

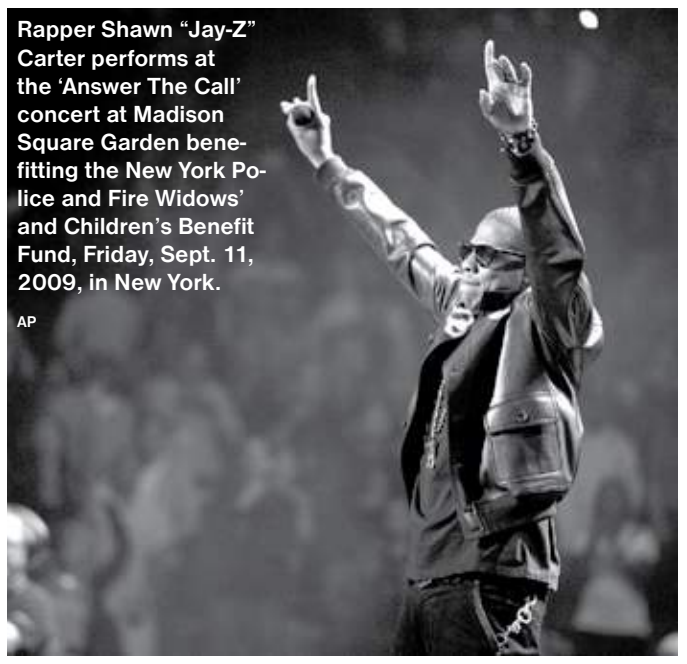
Jay-Z more than a rockstar at 9/11 concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Since the collapse of the World Trade Center on 9/11, many people have helped rebuild New York City in different ways. Rapper Jay-Z did it his own way: headlining a star-studded concert at Madison Square Garden.

The 39-year-old Brooklyn native performed to a sold-out crowd Friday night for his "Answer the Call" concert, which paid tribute to the police officers and firefighters who died responding to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The Pledge of Allegiance kicked off the show, followed by "The Star-Spangled Banner" infused with an electric guitar. Jay-Z continued with his own New York anthems—including "Empire State of Mind"; "Where I'm From," a song about his upbringing in the Marcy housing projects complex; and "Brooklyn Go Hard," a collaboration with alternative singer Santigold.

The rapper, whose real name is Shawn Carter, went on to perform over 30 songs from his 11 albums during the two-hour set. The concert aired on Fuse TV, and all proceeds will be donated to the New York Police and Fire Widows' and Children's Benefit Fund.



Rapper Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter performs at the 'Answer The Call' concert at Madison Square Garden benefitting the New York Police and Fire Widows' and Children's Benefit Fund, Friday, Sept. 11, 2009, in New York.

AP

A myriad of special guests came out to help celebrate. John Mayer rocked out on the electric guitar on "Dirt Off Your Shoulder" and Mary J. Blige added her signature gritty soul-sound on "Can't Knock the Hustle."

Jay-Z's wife, Beyonce, dominated the stage with a swagger-jammed dance routine to her hit song "Diva."

Rihanna, in her first performance since her February altercation with Chris Brown, showed she's ready to return to the stage when she sang on "Run This Town." Kanye West also performed on the song.

"We stand here tonight eight years later even stronger, even stronger," Jay-Z yelled before the performance. "This is our own. We run this town New York City!"

The performers set a serious tone Friday night—wearing mainly black and gray onstage.

Andrews on Oprah: She thought her career was over

ESPN reporter Erin Andrews thought her career was over after secretly taped nude footage of her began circulating on the Internet.

Andrews appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" on Friday in a 10-minute segment taped Aug. 27. This was her first interview on the topic and it was part of the show's kickoff to its 24th season.

Andrews was composed in talking about the "nightmare" of knowing the blurry five-minute video was on the Internet and being harassed by paparazzi after the story became news in July.

Andrews learned about the video from a friend, but initially laughed off the possibility it could be of her. After she watched it at his urging, the first thing she did was call her parents.

"I kept screaming: 'I'm done. My career is over. I'm done. Get it off. Get it off the Internet,'" said Andrews, her eyes watering as she remembered talking to her father. "They thought I was physically injured, (that's) how bad I was screaming."

Andrews' attorney has said the video was shot without her knowledge and she plans to seek criminal charges and file lawsuits against whoever shot it and anyone who posts it.

"I do know that I am a victim of a stalker, because we know that this happened in at least two rooms," Andrews said. "I was getting ready to go work a college football game in at least one of the videos I was able to identify."

Andrews returned to the air Sept. 3 as the sideline reporter for ESPN's broadcast of South Carolina at North Carolina State.

The 31-year-old former University of Florida dance team member was an Internet sensation even before the video's circulation.

Some Web sites have referred to her as "Erin Pageviews" because of the traffic she can generate, and Playboy magazine named her "sexiest sportscaster" in 2008 and 2009. She has covered numerous sports for the network since 2004, often as a sideline reporter.

AP

In this Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009 file photo, photo provided by Harpo Productions, ESPN college football sideline reporter Erin Andrews, left, talks with television talk-show host Oprah Winfrey during a taping for an upcoming showin Chicago.

In Celebration of His New Life

Jose (Noshinobu) Koyama Pangelinan
Better known as "Joe"

November 26, 1939 – September 6, 2009

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: Henry Sablan Pangelinan & Monica (Hideko) Koyama Pangelinan
Sister: Damiana Koyama Pangelinan
Parent-In-Laws: Vicente Vidal & Concepcion Camacho Borja Aguon
Brother & Sister-In-Laws: Juan, Katalina, Miguel, Gabriel, Vicente, Andres, Sarafin, Gregorio, Margarita, Ramon, Jesus, Rosalia, Juanita, Anuncia Borja Aguon

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his spouse, children, grandchildren, and family:

Spouse: Maria Aguon Pangelinan

Children: Joseph A. & Maricel R. Pangelinan & Children
Arlene A. & Donald J. Pangelinan-Caserio
Benjamin A. & Kirsten S. Pangelinan & Children
Henry A. & Lynn A. Pangelinan & Children
Vincent A. & Pilar O. Pangelinan & Children
Steven A. Pangelinan & Children

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:
Frederick K. & Leonora DL. Pangelinan & Children
Ernesta K. & Tomas Rueb & Children
Mariano K. & Soledad C. Pangelinan & Children
Benny K. & Josie J. Pangelinan & Children
Vivian K.P. & Joaquin B. Cruz & Children
Alfred K. & Cecilia P. Pangelinan & Children
Paul K. & Maria C. Pangelinan & Children
Henry Jr. K. & Rebecca F. Pangelinan & Children
Norman K. & Cynthia C. Pangelinan & Children
George K. & Evelyn M. Pangelinan & Children
Cynthia P. Pangelinan & Children
Glenn M. Pangelinan & Children
James M. Pangelinan
Michelle M. Pangelinan-Clark
Evonne M. Pangelinan
Evelyn P. Pangelinan
And the Koyama Family in Japan

Reared Brother:
Sachio & Shizue Hashimoto & Children

He will also be missed by numerous cousins, cousin-in-laws, nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, great-grand nephews, great-grandnieces, and relatives.

Nightly rosary is being held at Mt. Carmel Cathedral beginning Monday, September 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. On September 14, 2009, at 7:30 a.m., his remains will be escorted from Cabrera Funeral Home and will be taken to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Memorial mass will be at 10:00 a.m. His remains will be repatriated to Guam on September 15, 2009. On September 16, 2009, at 7:30 a.m., his remains will be escorted from Our Lady of Peace Memorial Home and will be taken to San Vicente Church in Barrigada. Funeral mass will be at 10:00 a.m., after which, his remains will be escorted to his final resting place at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Gardens in Windward Hills, Yona.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
THE FAMILY

Banderas takes on a different man of mystery

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Antonio Banderas takes on an unusual role for him in the romantic drama "The Other Man."

By SUSAN KING
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—During the production of the new romantic drama "The Other Man," Antonio Banderas confessed to leading lady Laura Linney that he felt insecure about his performance.

"She said, 'That is very good, because you are stepping into new territory,'" the star of such films as "The Mask of Zorro," "Evita" and "Shrek 2" said.

"Every time you step into new territory, you know you are not exactly doing the same thing and you are not getting comfortable," he said. "This character made (me) go to a very unsafe zone."

In the film, Banderas plays the mysterious Ralph, who has had an affair in Milan, Italy, with Lisa (Linney), a married London-based shoe designer, who suddenly disappears (leaving behind clues to let her husband, played by Liam Neeson, know about the infidelity). Ralph appears at first to be a well-educated, chess-playing sophisticate, but as the story unwinds, he is revealed to be something else.

"When I first read the script, I said, 'I know why they are calling me to do this—because they need a hunk to justifying why this woman is with him,'" Banderas said.

But then he talked with director Richard Eyre ("Notes on a Scandal") and Neeson about the intricacies of the character. And he read the script again.

He discovered that Ralph is "really pathetic and at the same time strangely sweet and vulnerable. ... The only thing he has real is this woman, and when this woman disappears, he literally has nothing. He's a faker."

Linney thinks the film came at a good time for Banderas.

"He has been so successful here as a larger-than-life heroic character—Zorro and Puss in Boots," the actress said. "I love Puss in Boots. But I think as much as he loves doing all of that stuff, there was a part of him who wanted to work on a straight drama."

"The Other Man," based on a short story by Bernhard Schlink ("The Reader"), never really answers the question of why the seemingly happily married Lisa has an affair and accepts Ralph for who he truly is.

"She obviously accepted his story, but with a condition—you never come to London, you never ask about the possibility of us living together," Banderas said. "When she disappears, for him, it's quite traumatic."

Ralph's means of coping is to continue operating in this fantasy world of being a successful, educated man. "It's the only place where this guy feels comfortable. Living in his fantasy is probably the only thing that makes him continue living. The only other possibility is to commit suicide," Banderas said.

It was the 49-year-old actor's early work with director and fellow Spaniard Pedro Almodovar in such films as "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" and especially "Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!" in the late '80s and early '90s that appealed to Eyre for the role of Ralph.

"Richard said, 'You were very unpredictable at this time,'" Banderas said.

He added that he'd love to work with Almodovar again. "Last year, I won an award at (Spain's) San Sebastian Film Festival, and we had a long talk. I know we are not going to die before we work together again."

The actor recently returned from London, where he was working on Woody Allen's latest, yet-to-be-titled, film. Although many actors have said Allen is a man of few words, Banderas found the opposite to be true.

"Every time I had a question, he was a book about it," he said.

"He's a guy who has been in strong psychoanalysis. He doesn't like games, and if he doesn't like something, he'll say, 'I don't like that, can you give me something different?' And I would say, 'I'll try, sir.'"

Annie Leibovitz buys back copyright to her photos

NEW YORK (AP)—Annie Leibovitz has won an extension on a $24 million loan in a financial dispute that threatened her rights to her famous images, the two sides said in a joint statement Friday.

Leibovitz and the company, Art Capital Group, said the 59-year-old photographer had been given more time to repay the loan. The loan's deadline passed on Tuesday, but both parties had continued to work to try to resolve the dispute. Neither party would specify the length of the extension.

Leibovitz

"In these challenging times I am appreciative to Art Capital for all they have done to resolve this matter and for their cooperation and continued support," Leibovitz said in the statement.

Her spokesman Matthew Hiltzik declined to comment on specifics of the deal.

Last year, Leibovitz put up as collateral three Manhattan townhouses, an upstate New York property and the copyright to every picture she has ever taken—or will take—to secure the loan.

Leibovitz needed the money, according to Art Capital, to deal with a "dire financial condition" stemming from her mortgage obligations, tax liens and unpaid bills.

The company sued her in July, claiming she had breached an agreement that authorized it to act as the agent in the sale of her photography and real estate. On Friday, the parties said Art Capital withdrew the lawsuit and sold back the rights to her works.

Leibovitz "purchased from Art Capital its rights to act as exclusive agent in the sale of her real property and copyrights," the joint statement said. "Ms. Leibovitz will therefore retain control of those assets within the context of the loan agreement which shall prevail until satisfied."

The company declined to say how much Leibovitz paid for the company's rights to act as agent.

"It was important to us to be flexible and to work out an agreement with Ms. Leibovitz that helps her achieve financial stability," Art Capital said.

"I think this is a win-win for both parties," said William Heller, an intellectual property attorney not involved in the case, when told of the agreement. "An amicable resolution in disputes like these is far better than an adjudicated solution, which comes at great cost and great delay."

"Art Capital is most concerned about repayment of its loan, and Annie Leibovitz is most concerned about protecting her rights in her valuable intellectual property," Heller added.

Should she default, Heller said, "the consequences will be determined by the terms of the deal they had just renegotiated."

But he said it appeared that "there has been fair consideration exchanged so that she could buy back control of her collection. It sounds like a common-sense result, a fair result and an intelligent result for both parties."

Leibovitz's artsy, provocative portraits of celebrities have made her nearly as famous as the celebrities in her images. Her portraits have regularly graced the covers of Vanity Fair, Vogue and Rolling Stone

Over the years, her lens has captured such famous faces as Queen Elizabeth II, Demi Moore and Bruce Springsteen. One of her best-known images depicts a nude John Lennon cuddling with a clothed Yoko Ono just hours before he was fatally shot.

She gave the world its first glimpse of baby Suri, newborn daughter of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, on the cover of Vanity Fair, which she joined in 1983.

Art Capital, a Manhattan-based company that issues loans against fine and decorative arts and real estate, had estimated the value of Leibovitz's portfolio at $40 million, and real estate brokers have said her New York properties were worth about $40 million.

Warhol's sports superstars stolen from LA home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A unique series of Andy Warhol pieces—portraits of Muhammad Ali, Jack Nicklaus, Pele, Dorothy Hamill and other athletic superstars—has been stolen from a collector's home.

Los Angeles police said Friday the collection of 10 silk screen paintings of famous athletes of the 1970s was taken from the home of businessman Richard Weisman sometime between Sept. 2 and 3.

Weisman commissioned the iconic pop artist in 1977 to create the portraits, said Brenda Klippel, the director of Martin Lawrence Galleries in Los Angeles, which has a large collection of Warhols.

CRIME ALERT
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF COMMERCIAL CRIMES DIVISION
$1 MILLION REWARD
STOLEN ART
Between September 2-3, 2009, a burglary occurred at a home along Angelo Drive in West L.A. Valuable art by Andy Warhol was removed from the walls. A $1 million reward is being offered for information leading to the recovery of the paintings. NOTE: other Warhol originals exist for each of the images below, but with different colors.

A commissioned portrait of Weisman was also stolen, said Detective Mark Sommer of the Los Angeles Police Department's art theft detail. A $1 million reward was offered for information leading to the return of the paintings.

"This was a very clean crime," Sommer said. "(The home) wasn't ransacked."

Art recovery expert Robert Wittman, a former investigator for the FBI's national art crime team, says most rewards are offered for about 10 percent of a stolen collection's value.

"A million dollars is nothing to sneeze at. That's a hefty reward for a collection," Wittman said.

The art was on display in Weisman's dining room and his house was locked up. It wasn't clear exactly when the paintings were taken or how the thieves got into the home.

The theft was discovered by the family's longtime nanny who arrived at the home to find the large prints missing from the walls. She immediately went to a neighbor's to call police, Sommer said.

It wasn't known exactly how much the prints were worth.

"The theft of Warhol's 'Athlete Series' represents a profoundly personal loss to me and my family," Weisman said in a statement.

Weisman, who published a book about his art collection called, "From Picasso to Pop," declined to comment further. The other valuable art in his home was untouched.

A neighbor saw a maroon van in the driveway of Weisman's home around the time of the robbery, Sommer said.

Warhol became internationally famous in the 1960s for his iconic image of a Campbell's soup can, his avant-garde films and his parties that mixed celebrities, artists, intellectuals and other beautiful people at his New York studio called "The Factory."

"Warhol was always a portraitist and fascinated with anyone of fame or fortune, anyone in the public eye," Klippel said. "If Weisman was in his circle and had the money, he could commission what he wanted."

Wittman said about 95 percent of stolen art, especially well known pieces, are recovered.

"The real art in an art theft is not the stealing but the selling," he said. "People know what they are. You can't sell it to the industry, it's not going back to the market and you also can't sell it at auction."

Depp back for new 'Pirates' film coming in 2011

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Avast! Disney says a new "Pirates of the Caribbean" film is on yonder horizon.

Johnny Depp sailed onstage Friday on a pirate ship at the Anaheim Convention Center to help announce the forthcoming installment of Disney's blockbuster film franchise. He was welcomed with a rousing standing ovation.

Depp will reprise his role as Capt. Jack Sparrow in "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," slated for summer of 2011. It's the fourth in a series.

Dressed as Sparrow, Depp staggered around the stage and embraced Walt Disney Studios Chairman Dick Cook, who announced the news to about 5,000 fans on hand for the D23 Expo, Disney's answer to Comic-Con.

In This undated file photo originally provided by Disney, Johnny Depp portrays Captain Jack Sparrow in "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End." AP

"Has anyone else witnessed a talking frog?" Depp's Sparrow asked the crowd, who had been treated to a performance by the Muppets moments earlier. "Where has the frog gone?"

Cook noted that it was likely time for some rum.

"Sounds good!" Sparrow predictably replied.

In his presentation of upcoming Disney films, Cook also announced that Depp would play Tonto in an upcoming big-screen adaptation of "The Lone Ranger."

The first all-things-Disney convention runs through Sunday.

Hefner says children delayed divorce

TORONTO (AP)—Hugh Hefner said he waited more than ten years to complete his divorce "because of the children."

"I stayed married not because it was a marriage—the marriage ended in 1998," he said. "I stayed because she wanted me to."

But now his twin boys are turning 18, so the 83-year-old Playboy magazine founder says, "Now is the time."

On Friday, Hefner filed for divorce from former Playmate of the Year, Kimberly Conrad Hefner. The couple married in 1989, and were legally separated in 1998. Since then, Hefner lived with three girlfriends at the Playboy Mansion. That relationship was documented on the E! Reality show "The Girls Next Door."

Hefner made the comments at the premiere of his documentary, "Hugh Hefner: Playboy Activist and Rebel," at the Toronto International Film Festival.

At the premiere, Hefner described himself as "a dyed-in-the-heart romantic who played some part in the changing social sexual values of his time."

AP

Playboy founder Hugh Hefner, second from left, poses for a photo with director Brigette Berman, second from right, and three companions ahead of the screening of the film "Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist and Rebel" by two companions at the Toronto International Film Festival on Saturday Sept. 12, 2009 in Toronto.

But the film shows a different side of him. Directed by Academy Award winner Brigitte Berman, she chooses to depict the making of the man and his stance as activist and humanitarian. The film opens in North America in the spring of 2010.

Source: Boyle to perform on 'America's Got Talent'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Susan Boyle is bringing her act to America.

The Scottish sensation of "Britain's Got Talent" will make her U.S. TV debut on the season finale of "America's Got Talent," according to a person close to the series. The person, who lacked authority to release the information, spoke Friday on condition of anonymity.

The dowdy Boyle surprised viewers of "Britain's Got Talent" with her soaring rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream." But she herself was taken aback by her sudden fame, which she has said hit her like a "giant demolition ball." She was hospitalized for exhaustion after the British show.

The two-part finale of "America's Got Talent" airs Sept. 14 and Sept. 16 on NBC, both at 8 p.m. EDT.

AP

Finalist of the talent search TV show "Britain's Got Talent", Susan Boyle leaves Heathrow Airport in London, Saturday Sept. 12, 2009, bound for America.

Fan pokes fun at Clooney in Italy

VENICE, Italy (AP)—A fan of actor George Clooney stripped to his boxer shorts in front of the Hollywood star and asked if he could "kiss him, just once."

"I am gay, George," the unidentified man said during a news conference at the Venice Film Festival Tuesday. "Take me, choose me George, please. May I kiss you, just once?"

Clooney was unflappable in responding with a smile, "It's hard when you take a big chance and it doesn't really work."

Clooney was attending the Venice Film Festival to present his new movie "The Men Who Stare at Goats," directed by Grant Heslov. The film was screened Tuesday out of competition.

The actor arrived in Venice with Italian actress Elisabetta Canalis.

Man accused of stalking 'The Hills' star Partidge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge has issued a temporary restraining order against a Northern California man accused of stalking "The Hills" star Audrina Partridge.

Zachory Loring of Petaluma is barred from coming within 100 yards of the reality TV celebrity. The order was issued Friday.

The 24-year-old Loring is accused of showing up on the doorstep of Partidge's Los Angeles home last month and handing her a stack of materials, including poems written to her and a photo of a woman being strangled. Her lawyers say he returned two more times, once staying on her porch for seven hours.

A hearing on a long-term order is set for Sept. 30.

Parents wage tug-of-war over toddler's car seat

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My toddler and I were rear-ended a few days ago. Thankfully, neither of us was hurt. The other driver's insurance is paying for the car repairs. They will also reimburse me for a new car seat if I buy one and submit the receipt.

My husband, the sole wage earner in our family, insists that we don't need to replace the car seat. Money is tight, but I think we could come up with it, and besides, we'd be reimbursed. He also thinks the accident was so minor that the seat should protect our child in another collision, and I'm "just a gullible consumer buying into marketing propaganda." (For the record, he's a loving husband and father, just tight with money.)

Should I replace the car seat knowing it will upset him, or should I continue feeling guilty about placing our child in a possibly compromised car seat?

SAFETY-FIRST MOM IN TENNESSEE

DEAR SAFETY-FIRST MOM: Far be it from me to imply that insurance companies aren't the epitome of generosity, but when an insurance company offers reimbursement for a child safety device that has been through an accident, I think you should take the hint. As to your husband's fiscal conservatism, tell him that he won't be fronting the money because you are gullible. He'll be doing it to give you something worth more than money—and that's peace of mind.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been living with a very nice man for 28 years, and at one point we were married. He lives in my house and drives my car. I do the cooking, cleaning, laundry and household chores. He does small repairs around the house, keeps the irrigation system in good repair and contributes $600 a month for expenses.

He goes to visit his family and friends in the West every summer for two weeks or more. This year he told me he was not coming back because he's broke. I was upset to say the least. He did come back, and now at 75, I think I will end up supporting him for the rest of my life.

Abby, should I bite the bullet, say "It's only money" and support him, or should I kiss him goodbye and wish him well?

UNDECIDED IN FLORIDA

DEAR UNDECIDED: Have you kept him in your house all these years because of his handyman skills and the $7,200 a year he gave you? If the answer is yes, then out he goes. However, if you cooked for him, cleaned for him, washed his dirty underwear and socks and slept with him because you LOVED him—then I think the pain of separation would make your life misery and you should continue accepting him for who he is and let him stay.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently had my teenage daughter vaccinated against HPV. Since then, my mother-in-law has been sending me e-mails regarding the "dangers" associated with these vaccines. The vaccination was recommended by my daughter's pediatrician and she handled it fine.

Regardless, it was a done deal—so why try to horrify me and scare her granddaughter? Any ideas on how to handle this?

TIRED OF MEDDLING MOTHER-IN-LAW

DEAR TIRED: Just this: Did you seek your mother-in-law's input when making the decision? No? Then don't take the bait and don't react, but do delete her e-mails.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

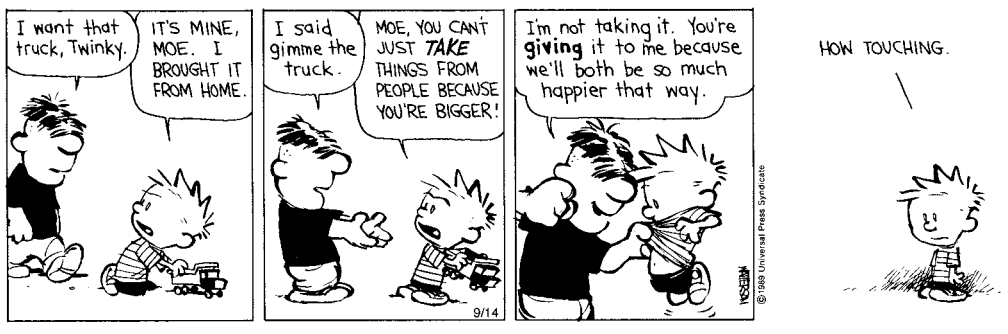
■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

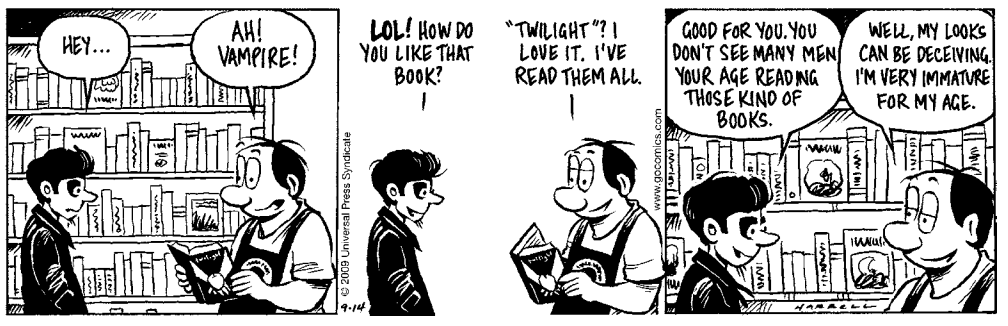

I want that truck, Twinky.
IT'S MINE, MOE. I BROUGHT IT FROM HOME.
I said gimme the truck.
MOE, YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE THINGS FROM PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU'RE BIGGER!
I'm not taking it. You're giving it to me because we'll both be so much happier that way.
9/14
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
HOW TOUCHING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY...
AH! VAMPIRE!
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9-14
LOL! HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT BOOK?
"TWILIGHT"? I LOVE IT. I'VE READ THEM ALL.
GOOD FOR YOU. YOU DON'T SEE MANY MEN YOUR AGE READING THOSE KIND OF BOOKS.
WELL, MY LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING. I'M VERY IMMATURE FOR MY AGE.
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

LOOK, QUIT ASKING ME OUT! I'M HOT, AND YOU'RE A TOTAL ZERO!!
AND IF THERE'S ONE THING I WILL NOT TOLERATE, IT'S A TOTAL ZERO!!
© Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
9/14
SO, YOU'RE SAYING YOU HAVE ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ZERO TOLERANCE?
YEAH. SHE LOST ME ON THAT ONE TOO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

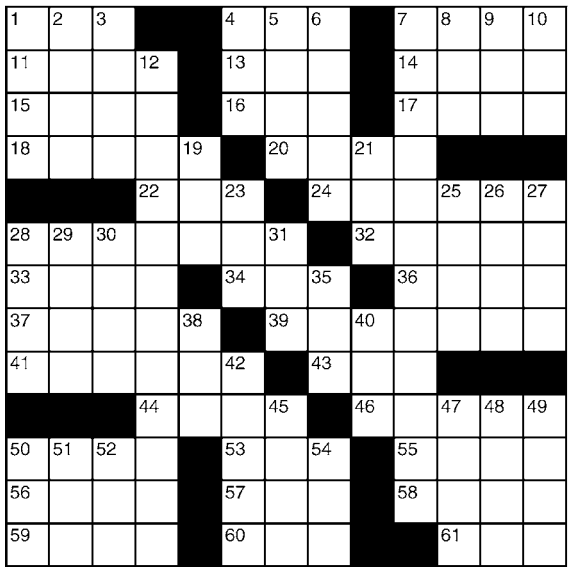
ACROSS
1 Friend
4 Vacationing
7 Fried-eggs side order
11 Newscaster Sevareid
13 Winter ailment
14 54-Down, to a biologist
15 Bullets, etc.
16 Pitch
17 Abound
18 Church council
20 Phil Mickelson's game
22 High tennis shot
24 Cheered (for)
28 Remote, unfamiliar territory
32 Fret
33 Taj Mahal city
34 Joan of —
36 Color quality
37 Sportscaster Musburger
39 Judge
41 Spoof
43 Thither
44 For fear that
46 Lecherous looker
50 Quaker pronoun
53 Exist
55 Tittle
56 Pig's sound
57 Schlep
58 Nip and —
59 Duel tool
60 "Family Guy" daughter
61 Popular article

DOWN
1 Carrots' mates
2 Soldiers
3 Depict
4 Frequently
5 Banner
6 Uproar
7 Running fast
8 "Hail!" in old Rome
9 Take to court
10 "Let me think, ..."
12 1967 Paul Newman movie
19 Buck's mate
21 Depressed
23 Bikini half
25 Jog
26 Sea eagle
27 Color worker
28 Apprehends
29 Fairy tale baddie
30 Small songbird
31 Historic time
35 Weep
38 Calendar abbr.
40 Greet the villain
42 Song of praise
45 Authentic
47 Lummox
48 Engrave
49 Gather leaves
50 Pirouette pivot
51 With it
52 Inseparable
54 Early bird?

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	S	T	E	N	T	■	T	O	P	I	C	■
M	A	U	L	E	R	■	O	B	E	R	O	N
A	F	R	I	C	A	■	M	O	N	I	C	A
D	A	N	■	K	L	U	T	E	■	S	O	T
A	R	I	D	■	A	T	O	■	N	E	A	T
M	I	N	O	R	■	E	M	B	A	S	S	Y
■	■	■	N	E	O	■	S	A	C	■	■	■
S	C	R	U	F	F	S	■	T	R	O	P	E
T	O	O	T	■	F	U	R	■	E	P	I	C
E	S	S	■	S	H	E	A	F	■	T	E	L
A	T	T	I	C	A	■	S	I	L	I	C	A
M	A	R	I	A	N	■	P	L	A	N	E	T
■	L	A	I	R	D	■	Y	E	G	G	S	■

Saturday's answer 9-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: A.J. Trauth, 23; Adam Lamberg, 25; Callum Keith Rennie, 49; Sam Neill, 62

Happy Birthday: Use your experience and your work ethic to show others how efficient you are. Emotional matters can be brought out in the open and dealt with in a practical manner. You have a lot going for you and shouldn't feel someone else can do a better job. Your numbers are 3, 11, 18, 24, 35, 39, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't shy away from new possibilities, especially if it entails meeting people who have similar interests or work in the same industry as you. Show what you have to offer and you will accomplish a lot. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Problems will develop at home or in your personal life if you are unreasonable. Take the bad with the good and work out a way to get through whatever challenges you face without letting stubbornness, jealousy or your emotions interfere. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll have your hands full but that's when you do your best work. A couple of fast maneuvers on your part and you will have control and be headed in a direction that satisfies your own special needs. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): There is no point sulking or keeping things to yourself. Address matters honestly. You'll be surprised how quickly you can implement your plans once you've shared your thoughts and feelings. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may feel like sharing your ideas but, for now, do things in secret so no one will stand in your way. The less attention you draw to what you are doing, the less chance there will be for someone to stop you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll have to be careful how you deal with the people who can influence what you are trying to accomplish in your personal and your professional life. The more agreeable you are, the easier it will be to put some of your ideas to the test. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): It will benefit you more if you focus your attention on yourself rather than trying to do things you don't want to do for others. Weigh the cost and stress involved and it won't be hard to make up your mind. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Getting involved in something that motivates you will help put new life into something you've been working toward. Go to the source if it will help to bring you greater inspiration or clarity on how you can do something without additional cost. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): It's not worth getting all worked up over nothing. If someone asks for something, take care of it and get on with your day. In the end, you'll be the one with the knowledge and experience to move forward. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can make friends by doing something nice that will ease stress and worry. Your ability to juggle things around will help those who cannot. Money is in the stars and a settlement or investment that has been pending will make a comeback. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Donít worry about your financial situation—do something about it. You can come up with a lucrative idea or service that will help you pay your bills. Changes to something you already do will help you broaden your scope of clients. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A networking group of high profile people in an industry you are familiar with will lead to an opportunity. A change is heading your way and a partnership is possible but it will require a lot of hard work, dedication and compromise. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring and are always looking for solutions. You are practical, serious-minded and a humanitarian. You are a leader.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6			1			7
		2	3					
4	7	9		2				
	8		7	1				2
		5	6		9	4		
9				3	2		5	
				9		8	1	4
					6	3		
1			8			5		

Difficulty Level ★ 9/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	7	9	6	3	2	4	5	8
4	5	6	9	1	8	3	2	7
8	2	3	7	4	5	9	1	6
5	6	4	3	8	9	1	7	2
7	9	8	2	6	1	5	3	4
3	1	2	5	7	4	8	6	9
6	4	1	8	2	3	7	9	5
2	8	5	1	9	7	6	4	3
9	3	7	4	5	6	2	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KLABERHEADS Solution: 9 letters

G	G	S	Z	O	T	U	A	R	K	R	E	U	A	S
B	E	L	L	I	V	S	E	N	A	Z	E	U	G	C
I	R	M	E	A	N	T	O	N	R	Y	L	N	A	H
L	M	A	U	D	V	Z	O	N	C	E	I	R	K	W
L	A	L	T	E	U	I	I	Z	G	R	Z	A	L	A
E	N	E	L	W	T	N	T	N	T	A	A	P	O	N
G	Y	K	D	C	U	L	F	S	N	G	B	P	P	T
N	E	N	N	A	A	R	I	P	E	A	E	E	R	Z
E	R	U	R	W	R	R	S	C	M	F	T	D	O	G
R	F	D	I	H	O	I	E	T	H	A	H	I	S	N
E	F	B	D	N	K	(D)	(N)	(A)	(B)	K	D	S	I	I
M	R	B	T	C	K	M	U	R	D	L	E	E	T	S
E	A	O	I	L	T	E	I	G	N	A	K	I	R	E
O	N	R	O	K	T	O	B	E	R	F	E	S	T	R
R	Z	F	R	H	E	I	N	L	A	N	D	E	R	A

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Angie, Anton, Band, Bill, Bratwurst, Dampfnudel, Darin, Dirndl, Dunkel, Elizabeth, Engel, Erika, Festivals, Folk, Franz, Frey, Function, Garey, Gemuetlichkeit, Germany, Ironton, Oktoberfest, Polka, Prosit, Rheinlander, Rick, Robb, Roemer, Sauerkraut, Schwantz, Sing, Song, Steel Drum, Strings, Un-Rapped, Waltz, Zanesville, Zinzinnati

Last Saturday's Answer: Travel

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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HEAL
HEEL
HE'LL

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, -v-. CONCEPCION M. MANGLONA, LORENZA M. MANGLONA, HERMAN M. MANGLONA, and LUIS A. SASAMOTO, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0325

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, LUIS A. SASAMOTO:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your cousel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judment by default may be taken against you for the relief of demanded in the complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 8th day of September, 2009:

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Bizarre ending to Serena's title defense

AP

Serena Williams, of the United States, left, talks to officials after arguing with a line judge over a foot fault during her match against Kim Clijsters, of Belgium, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009.

US OPEN 2009

NEW YORK (AP)—Serena Williams walked toward the line judge, screaming, cursing and shaking a ball in the official's direction, threatening to "shove it down" her throat.

On match point in the U.S. Open semifinals Saturday night, defending champion Williams was penalized a point for unsportsmanlike conduct—a bizarre, ugly finish that gave a 6-4, 7-5 upset victory to unseeded, unranked Kim Clijsters.

The match featured plenty of powerful groundstrokes and lengthy exchanges. No one will remember a single shot that was struck, though, because of the unusual, dramatic way it ended.

With Williams serving at 5-6, 15-30 in the second set, she faulted on her first serve. On the second serve, a line judge called a foot fault, making it a double-fault—a call rarely, if ever, seen at that stage of any match, let alone the semifinals of a Grand Slam tournament.

That made the score 15-40, putting Clijsters one point from victory.

Instead of stepping to the baseline to serve again, Williams went over and shouted and cursed at the line judge, pointing at her and thrusting the ball toward her.

"If I could, I would take this ... ball and shove it down your ... throat," Williams said.

She continued yelling at the line judge, and went back over, shaking her racket in the official's direction.

Asked in her postmatch news conference what she said to the line judge, Williams wouldn't say, replying, "What did I say? You didn't hear?"

"I've never been in a fight in my whole life, so I don't know why she would have felt threatened," Williams said with a smile.

The line judge went over to the chair umpire, and tournament referee Brian Earley joined in the conversation. With the crowd booing—making part of the dialogue inaudible—Williams then went over and said to the line judge: "Sorry, but there are a lot of people who've said way worse." Then the line judge said something to the chair umpire, and Williams responded, "I didn't say I would kill you. Are you serious? I didn't say that." The line judge replied by shaking her head and saying, "Yes."

Williams already had been give a code violation warning when she broke her racket after losing the first set. So the chair umpire now awarded a penalty point to Clijsters, ending the match.

"She was called for a foot fault, and a point later, she said something to a line umpire, and it was reported to the chair, and that resulted in a point penalty," Earley explained. "And it just happened that point penalty was match point. It was a code violation for unsportsmanlike conduct."

When the ruling was announced, Williams walked around the net to the other end of the court to shake hands with a stunned Clijsters, who did not appear to understand what had happened.

"I used to have a real temper, and I've gotten a lot better," Williams said later. "So I know you don't believe me, but I used to be worse. Yes, yes, indeed."

Lost in the theatrics was Clijsters' significant accomplishment: In only her third tournament back after 2 1/2 years in retirement, the 26-year-old Belgian became the first mother to reach a Grand Slam final since Evonne Goolagong Cawley won Wimbledon 1980.

"The normal feelings of winning a match weren't quite there," Clijsters said. "But I think afterwards, when everything kind of sunk in a little bit and got explained to me about what happened, yeah, you kind of have to put it all in place, and then it becomes a little bit easier to understand and to kind of not celebrate, but at least have a little bit of joy after a match like that."

Clijsters hadn't competed at the U.S. Open since winning the 2005 championship. Now she will play for her second career major title Sunday against No. 9 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, who beat Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium 6-3, 6-3 in the other rain-delayed women's semifinal.

Williams came into the day having won three of the past four Grand Slam titles, and 30 of her previous 31 matches at major tournaments.

She was playing fantastically at the U.S. Open, not losing a set before Saturday and having lost her serve a total of three times through five matches.

But Clijsters—who beat Williams' older sister, No. 3 Venus, in the fourth round—was superb, matching strokes and strides with as strong and swift a woman as the game has to offer.

Williams, meanwhile, kept making mistakes, and two backhand errors plus a double-fault contributed to a break at love that put Clijsters ahead 4-2.

When Williams netted backhands on consecutive points at 5-4, Clijsters had broken her for the second time and taken the opening set. The last backhand was the 14th unforced error made by Williams to that point—twice as many as Clijsters—and the American bounced her racket, caught it, then cracked it against the blue court, mangling the frame.

When Williams walked to the changeover, she clanged it against the net post and was given a warning for racket abuse by the chair umpire.

That would prove pivotal about an hour later, at match's end.

"I mean, the timing is unfortunate, you know," Clijsters said. "To get a point penalty at the time, it's unfortunate. But there are rules, and you know, like I said, it's just unfortunate that it has to happen on a match point."

Tiger builds a commanding lead at Cog Hill

LEMONT, Ill. (AP)—Tiger Woods started with a bogey. His best shot led to a par.

It turned out to be his best round of the year.

Getting better with every shot, Woods broke the course record at Cog Hill and blew away the field Saturday in the BMW Championship with a 9-under 62 that gave him a seven-shot lead.

"After I got past the first hole I was doing all right," Woods said. "It was one of those days that kind of built upon itself."

Brandt Snedeker finished with four straight birdies for a 66 and will play with Woods for the first time Sunday. He could probably think of better circumstances.

"I've got to do something spectacular," Snedeker said, "and he's got to maybe have a heart attack out there for me to have a chance."

Marc Leishman had a two-shot lead when he made the turn. Could he have imagined shooting 1 over on the back nine and finding himself seven shots behind?

"You wouldn't think so," he said. "But like I say, it's Tiger."

The 62 tied the tournament record—an event that dates to 1899—set last year by Jim Furyk at Bellerive outside St. Louis.

BMW Championship

A course renovated by Rees Jones with hopes of landing a U.S. Open was no match for Woods, who was nearly nine shots better than the field, which averaged 70.71.

Woods was at 16-under 197 and had his largest lead on the PGA Tour since he was eight shots in front in the Buick Invitational at Torrey Pines early last year. He wound up winning by eight shots.

This was Woods at his finest, even though he wasn't flawless.

He dropped his 3-wood in disgust after his opening tee shot sailed to the left into a bunker, leading to a sloppy bogey. He followed that by missing a 10-foot birdie putt on the next hole. Woods started the third round tied for the lead, and already was three shots behind when he stood on the tee at the par-3 sixth and faced a dangerous pin—all the way to the left, protected by deep bunkers front and back.

"Even if you bail out to the right, it's a tough putt," Woods said. "The only thing you can't do there is go in the back bunker. That's one of the reasons why I didn't hit a 6-iron and try to hold it in there. But I had to hit the 7-iron really good to get it there, and I pulled it off."

From there, he never missed another green.

He considers his best shot a 6-iron out of the rough on the left side of the seventh fairway, which he needed to start left of the green to avoid a tree in front of him and yet keep it out of the bunker. It came out perfectly, and Woods gave a light fist pump, rare for an iron shot that stopped 15 feet away on the fringe.

The signature shot was a 3-wood from just over 300 yards to 10 feet at the par-5 ninth for an eagle, so pure that the gallery crammed into the bleacher rose to its feet when the ball finally stopped rolling.

Woods knocked it to take the outright lead, and it only got bigger.

It will be his first time with the 54-hole lead since the PGA Championship last month at Hazeltine, where Y.E. Yang made up a two-shot deficit and became the first player to beat Woods from behind in a major.

Yang is 25 shots behind at Cog Hill.

Snedeker was worried about keeping his card this summer until his health improved and his game turned around. Now he has a chance to move into the top 30 in the FedEx Cup standings, which would qualify him for all the majors next year.

Winning this week? That's a taller task.

"Looks like Tiger is making it difficult on us," Snedeker said after closing with four straight birdies. "I'm playing fantastic. And the best thing is I fought extremely well out there."

Matt Kuchar improved his Tour Championship hopes with a 66 and was tied for fourth at 205 with Padraig Harrington (69).

It was Harrington who got Woods' attention early in the third round. The Irishman birdied three straight holes, chipping in on the fourth hole from deep rough, while Leishman birdied four straight in the middle of the front nine to reach 10 under.

Woods stood on the sixth tee three shots behind. Four holes later, he had the lead to himself. And midway through the back nine, when he was firing at flags and holing putts, the tournament seemed to be over.

"It was just a round that, as I said, kind of built upon itself, and I just kind of gradually kept hitting good shots, then making a couple of putts here and there," he said. "And lo and behold, I end up at 9-under par."

Woods will be going for his sixth victory of the year and his fifth at Cog Hill on Sunday, which would put him atop the FedEx Cup standings going to the Tour Championship in two weeks.

For everyone else, it's a matter of getting there.

Seven players among the top 10 are currently outside the top 30 required to get into East Lake. Snedeker would not have figured to be one of those players three months ago, when he was returning from a rib injury.

"I didn't think I was going to have a job in July," Snedeker said. "My whole goal was to secure my card. Now I'm back to my original goal of trying to make the Tour Championship. Any time you get to the Tour Championship, it's been a good year."

Burnett hit hard again as Orioles beat Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)— Brian Roberts hit a grand slam in a six-run second inning and tied a franchise record with his 51st double as the Baltimore Orioles beat up A.J. Burnett and the New York Yankees 7-3 in the American League on Saturday.

Brian Matusz (5-2) won his third straight start, and the Yankees lost consecutive games for the first time since Aug. 16-17 at Seattle and Oakland.

Burnett (11-9) was hit hard for the third time in five starts and appeared far from ready to start Game 2 or 3 of the postseason next month. He allowed six runs and seven hits in seven innings, is 1-5 in his last nine starts, and has a 7.67 ERA in his last five outings while giving up eight homers.

A day after surpassing Lou Gehrig for the Yankees career hits lead, Derek Jeter was 1 for 5 to leave his total at 2,724.

AP

Baltimore Orioles' Brian Robertsght, celebrates with teammate Ty Wigginton after hitting a grand slam during the second inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, in New York.

Athletics 4, Twins 2

At Minneapolis, Brett Anderson threw seven sharp innings, and Cliff Pennington had three hits with an RBI as Oakland beat Minnesota for its fifth win in six games.

Anderson (9-10) retired 18 of 24 batters, including the final eight he faced, and didn't allow a walk for the fourth time this season to win his second-consecutive start.

A day after hitting a season-high five homers and 10 extra-base hits in their 12-5 rout of the Twins, the A's scored three of their four runs on sacrifice flies.

White Sox 4, Angels 3, 10 innings

At Anaheim, California, Scott Podsednik hit an inside-the-park homer and scored the go-ahead run in the 10th inning on a wild pitch to lead Chicago over Los Angeles.

Podsednik hit the White Sox's first inside-the-park homer since 2002 in the third. He doubled leading off the 10th against Angels closer Brian Fuentes (1-4). Gordon Beckham singled to advance Podsednik to third. A.J. Pierzynski then hit a flyball to center that was too shallow for Podsednik to score.

Rookie Kevin Jepsen relieved and threw a wild pitch to the backstop on a 1-2 count and Podsednik raced home for the lead.

John Danks scattered six hits over six scoreless innings and left with a 3-0 lead, but the White Sox bullpen couldn't protect it.

Red Sox 9, Rays 1, 5 innings

At Boston, Josh Beckett won his first game in a month and Alex Gonzalez led an eight-run third inning as Boston beat Tampa Bay in a game called by rain in the top of the sixth.

It was another encouraging sign for Beckett after a four-game stretch in which he allowed 24 earned runs and 12 homers in 24 1-3 innings. On Saturday, Beckett (15-6) allowed four hits with four strikeouts and a walk in five innings. The last hit was a double by Evan Longoria leading off the sixth, the final batter before the field was covered in a pouring rain. After a 55-minute delay, the game was called at 11:54 p.m.

The start of the game had been delayed for 2 hours, 5 minutes in which there was no rain most of the time.

Blue Jays 8, Tigers 6

At Detroit, Aaron Hill hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the ninth inning to cap Toronto's come-from-behind victory over slumping Detroit.

Rod Barajas, Vernon Wells and Marco Scutaro also homered for Toronto, which handed the AL Central-leading Tigers their fifth straight loss.

Miguel Cabrera, Curtis Granderson and Alex Avila homered for Detroit.

The Blue Jays tied it at 6 in the eighth on Brandon Lyon's wild pitch that allowed Wells to score from third.

Scutaro singled with two out in the ninth. He then stole second before Hill drilled Fernando Rodney's pitch for his 32nd homer.

Indians 13, Royals 6

At Cleveland, Jhonny Peralta drove in four runs to help David Huff become Cleveland's first 10-game winner as the Indians snapped Kansas City's five-game winning streak.

Peralta had a two-run double in the fourth inning off Luke Hochevar (6-10) and his two-run single capped a five-run sixth that put Cleveland ahead 11-3.

Huff (10-9) won his third straight start, improving to 5-1 in six outings since Aug. 9. The left-hander allowed three runs and seven hits over six innings, striking out a career-high six. He is the first Cleveland rookie to win 10 games since Ryan Drese went 10-9 in 2002.

Mariners 8, Rangers 3, 8 1/2 innings

At Arlington, Texas, Ichiro Suzuki had two hits to move within two of a record ninth-straight 200-hit season as Seattle beat Texas in a game called off by rain with three outs remaining.

Suzuki doubled in the first and homered in the third before going hitless in his last three at-bats. He shares the mark with Willie Keeler, who had eight consecutive 200-hit seasons from 1984-1901.

The Rangers had two men on in the bottom of the ninth when umpires stopped play because the weather was too much to overcome.

Ken Griffey Jr., Franklin Gutierrez and Jack Hannahan each had two RBIs, and Brandon Morrow (1-4) pitched five innings to win for the first time since Sept. 26, 2008.

Reds 7, Cubs 5

At Chicago, pinch-hitter Drew Sutton lined a two-out, two-run double off Carlos Marmol in the ninth inning as the Cincinnati Reds beat the Chicago Cubs after squandering a five-run lead.

Marmol (2-3), the Cubs closer, walked two straight batters with two outs before Sutton lined a ball into the right field corner to break the 5-5 tie.

Arthur Rhodes (1-1) pitched a scoreless eighth inning for the win. Francisco Cordero worked the ninth for his 34th save in 37 chances.

The Cubs made three infield errors in the third inning, helping the Reds score twice en route to a 5-0 lead after four innings.

Mets 10, Phillies 9

At Philadelphia, David Wright hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth inning off new Philadelphia closer Ryan Madson to rally New York over the Phillies.

Wright homered twice for the first time this season and matched a career high with six RBIs. The Mets scored five runs off the Phillies bullpen in the final two innings to stun the NL East leaders. Madson blew his sixth save.

Madson (5-5) had retired the first two batters in the ninth before Fernando Tatis singled. Wright then hit the next pitch into the left-field seats for his 10th homer of the season.

Chase Utley, Raul Ibanez and Pedro Feliz all homered for the Phillies.

Braves 7, Cardinals 6

At St. Louis, Brian McCann hit a two-run double in the top of the ninth inning as Atlanta held on to beat St. Louis.

The Cardinals have dropped two straight games for the first time since July 25-26 when they lost consecutive games to Philadelphia.

Mike Gonzalez (4-4) got the win despite allowing two runs, one earned, in the eighth which gave the Cardinals a 6-5 lead.

The Braves two runs in the ninth came off of reliever Ryan Franklin (2-3), who blew his second straight save opportunity and his fourth of the season.

Dodgers 9, Giants 1

At San Francisco, Russell Martin hit a three-run homer and Vicente Padilla pitched six strong innings and singled in a run as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat San Francsisco to top their win total from 2008.

Padilla (3-0) struck out five and didn't allow an earned run to remain unbeaten since signing a minor league deal with the Dodgers on Aug. 19 following his release by the Rangers.

The Giants lost their fourth straight, matching their longest home skid of the season also done from May 13-16.

Astros 4, Pirates 2

At Houston, Miguel Tejada hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning to help Houston beat Pittsburgh.

Carlos Lee also connected for a two-run home run as Houston won for the seventh time in nine games. The Astros have won 12 of 16 at home.

Pittsburgh's Ross Ohlendorf retired the first 10 batters of the game, and Houston's Brian Moehler set down 11 of the first 12 he faced.

Kaz Matsui broke up Ohlendorf's perfect game with a bunt single with one out in the bottom of the fourth. Two batters later, Carlos Lee hit his 25th home run of the season to make it 2-0.

Brewers 9, Diamondbacks 2

At Phoenix, rookie Casey McGehee homered twice, drove in six runs, and went 4 for 5, and David Bush earned his first victory in almost four months as Milwaukee routed Arizona.

McGehee hit a two-run homer in the third inning, an RBI single in the fifth, and a three-run homer in the sixth. He also singled in the eighth and is hitting .306 with 15 homers.

Bush (4-7) struck out a season-high 11 and won for the first time since May 19, breaking a nine-game drought in which he was 0-7 with a 9.21 ERA.

Mike Cameron had three of the Brewers' 16 hits, 11 against rookie right-hander Kevin Mulvey (0-1), who was making his first major league start in his fifth career appearance.

Marlins 11, Nationals 3

At Miami, Jorge Cantu doubled, homered and drove in five runs, and Cody Ross also doubled and homered to power Florida past Washington.

Gaby Sanchez added his first career home run for the Marlins, who won for the fourth time in five games—and eighth in 10—following a 2-hour, 34-minute rain delay at the game's start.

Washington's Justin Maxwell hit two solo homers for his first career multi-homer game.

Tim Wood (1-0) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings in relief of starter Anibal Sanchez for his first career win.

DA dismisses case against Merriman

SAN DIEGO (AP)— District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis on Friday dismissed reality TV star Tila Tequila's accusations that San Diego Chargers linebacker Shawne Merriman choked her and threw her to the ground early Sunday while she was trying to leave his suburban home.

Merriman was arrested after Tequila signed a citizen's arrest warrant accusing Merriman of battery and false imprisonment. Both are felonies.

Dumanis decided not to charge Merriman after her office spent three days reviewing reports from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

"After a thorough review of the investigation into the Sept. 6, 2009, incident at the Poway home of Shawne Merriman, our office has determined there is insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that any crime was committed," Dumanis said in a statement. "This case is now closed. No further comment will be made."

Dumanis' statement was released moments after the Chargers concluded practice. Informed by reporters that he wouldn't be charged, Merriman said he couldn't comment until after he'd spoken with his lawyers.

A few hours later, he released a statement that read in part:

"I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's office for carefully reviewing the evidence and not rushing to judgment on these serious allegations. I also appreciate the objectiveness expressed by the San Diego Charges ownership and management, my teammates, my friends and especially all the fans. I look forward to continuing to stay focused on my career goals: a great season of football and the success of the San Diego Chargers."

In a statement, Chargers general manager A.J. Smith said: "It's really good news for Shawne. We're happy things worked out for him on the legal front."

Smith didn't return a call seeking further comment.

The Chargers are preparing for their season opener Monday night at Oakland. It will be Merriman's first game back since having knee surgery after the 2008 season opener.

Tequila, whose real name is Tila Nguyen, is best known for "A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila," which ran for two seasons on MTV. The bisexual dating show featured men and women vying for Tequila's affections. She has also modeled for Playboy and other men's magazines.

Merriman said he was trying to keep Tequila from leaving his home because she appeared to be intoxicated and denied harming her.

Tequila's attorney, Alan Gutman, called Merriman's explanation "spin" and predicted it would be discredited, saying the 6-foot-4, 265-pound linebacker "brutally" assaulted his client.

Gutman did not return calls seeking comment.

Team spirit keeps IT&E going

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IT&E playing coach Edson Mendoza said team spirit, strong support from management, and diehard fans are the keys to their strong showing in the ongoing IT&E Inter-Government/ Business Basketball League.

The host team remained undefeated after seven games by beating Commonwealth Health Center, 85-74, last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"We play as a team. We move the ball well and we put a lot of effort in defense. I think that this is what accounts for what we have right now," Mendoza said.

He said that the fans who watch every single game contribute dearly to their sterling performance.

"They're the ones who gets us going in the game," he said.

But IT&E does not want to be overconfident.

"We don't want to take the other teams for granted. We respect each of them," Mendoza said when asked if their strong start will continue up to the very end.

Mendoza said it is just a matter of the players building confidence and try to keep the heat burning.

IT&E executive director Robert Harrell watched the team's game last Friday against CHC.

Harrell echoed the same observation saying teamwork is working well for the team.

He has high hopes for the championship.

"This team is pretty strong but Tinian and NTT Docomo are also good teams," he said.

Docomo has a 3-1 record, so far, while Tinian is also 3-1 in the 12-team tournament.

Tinian won over DCCA also last Saturday, 93-88, in a similarly lopsided contest.

IT&E established its biggest lead of 23 points, 85-62, with four minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Although IT&E did not score after that, CHC ran out of time after scoring 12 points in that final stretch and absorbed its second defeat in five games.

Friday Game

IT&E 85 – Sanciangco 24, Mendoza 12, Barbo 10, Tumaquip 9, Esdrelon 7, Berline 7, Deleon 4, Watanabe 4, Manibusan 2, Fernandez Yamada 2, Camacho 2.

CHC 74 – Lisua 28, Pangelinan 24, Fernandez 6, Brostrom 6, Tudela 4, Siedler 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-19, 44-40, 69-54, 85-74.

Saturday Game

Tinian 93 – Santos 27, Borja 19, Reyes 13, Manglona 10, Evangelista 9, Castro 7, Cepeda 5, J.Borja 2, J. Aquininoc 1.

DCCA 88 – Iginoef 29, Van Buren 18, P. Camacho 17, Benavente 10, Rangamar 4, Rogolifoi 4, C. Camacho 2, Matson 2, Igitol 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-16, 48-34, 65-64, 93-88.

MARPI

From Page 28

it going, but even with his effort it would have finally shut down. The leaks are too high, the filters shot, pumps corroded beyond repair, the facilities too deteriorated," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Good said he hopes the interim band-aid repairs being undertaken by Marianas Resort, which own the Kan Pacific pool, will allow swimmers to get back in the pool within the next two weeks.

Saipan Swim Club president Sam Martinsen, on the other hand, said they already cancelled training at the Kan Pacific pool weeks before DEQ and BEH closed it down.

He said SSC was supposed to restart its daily swimming practices in mid-August but pushed it to September because of the low chlorine level of the water.

Martinsen said SSC wanted to ensure the safety of their kids first before having them jump back into the pool. He said the chlorine level actually began improving earlier this month when daily monitors showed it between the 1.1 percent and 1.5 level only to have it go down again last week.

The SSC president said their older kids will start training at PIC beginning this week. He said the club is still looking for a temporary home for its younger swimmers.

SSC founder and NMASA Hall of Famer Bill Sakovich also expressed concerned on the shut down of the Kan Pacific pool.

"The only thing I can say is while we were there, we had a great rapport with the Kan Pacific people and never had this problem although it came close a couple times, but with both cooperating, it never did close, except maybe for typhoons," he said.

Sakovich said the shut down of the Kan Pacific pool will hurt both programs and he hopes once the problem is rectified, the two clubs and Kan Pacific can work together to keep the pool operable.

"A lot, really of lot of credit goes back to Jess Ronquillo and Gary De Guzman, both [former] lifeguards for the Marianas Resort. They were the guys who knew how and kept the pool operating 24/7," he said.

Sakovich said the shut down of the Kan Pacific pool makes it more urgent the need to construct a new one, ideally in a more central part of the island.

"There is a need for another pool, in addition to Kan Pacific or in place of. I think the American Memorial Park would be an ideal place, but wherever land could be made available would be great. It should be more centrally located," he said.

In the meantime, Sakovich said both the SSC and Tsunami Saipan should make do with what they have.

"Remember, the Saipan Swim Club began in 1974, and it was not until 1987 that the Kan Pacific pool was available for us to use. We did use the beach, and the last few years a hotel pool part time, and SSC did well," he said.

JACK

From Page 28

thon race in Guam next month.

Kabiriel, sponsored by his employer Safety 1st Systems, Inc, immediately left to open the company after crossing the finish line, even as most of the runners were still checking in.

Mancao came in second with 1:36.57, while Villafria was third with his 1:39.31.

"I never had the chance to catch him," said the Bank Pacific-sponsored Mancao, who won the fun run last year.

Villafria said Kabiriel and Mancao left him in Calavera Cave but closed the distance to about a kilometer in the downhill stretch at Pale Arnold.

Berger, for her part, crossed the finished line in 1:46.17 and won the women's division for the fourth straight time.

She said she had not been competing in previous races and said that her win last Saturday was good motivation for her to continue her training.

Kimiko Hasegawa was second with 2:13.25 and Kanae Quinn was third with 2:21.37.

Louie Tenorio came late for the half marathon and arrived seconds before the start of the fun run. He had no choice but to enter the latter and won the race with a time of 30:13, his first win in the abbreviated course.

"I was always on Top 5 [in the half marathon]," he said.

XTERRA Japan winner Mieko Carey ruled the women's division with a time of 30.19.

"Mieko was up in front for the first half and she kept on pushing me. She kept the fire burning," said Tenorio who is training hard for the Hell of the Marianas in December.

Close to 50 runners joined the race to bring back to the island three-time XTERRA Saipan Championship winner Jamie Whitmore, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

ROGOLIFOI

From Page 28

be able to join the CNMI team that would compete in the upcoming master's baseball tournament in Manila in November.

"I can use the ticket but sell it for maybe half the price if I decide not to go to Manila," he said.

Rogolifoi also won a Cleveland hi-bore driver.

"I've been wanting to get a driver and now I have this," said Rogolifoi.

Peter Tenorio came in second with a net score of 69 after the 12-handicapper shot 43 and 38 for a gross 81. He won a Mizuno irons set.

Jung Eun Taeck tied four other players with a net 70, but his lower handicap of 12 gave him the third prize, a GSM LG KE 970 Shine Docomo cell phone. He had 42 in the front and 40 in the back for a gross 82.

Fourth placer Alex Aquiningoc beat three other 18-handicappers with a net 70 via the count-back tiebreak system. He took home a Cleveland hi-bore XLS 10.5 Driver.

Ken Falen was fifth (70) and youthful Apple Park was sixth (70). They each won $100 worth of gift certificates from MITA Travel.

Completing the Top 10 were Ben Duenas (70.60), Palik Thomson (70.80), Manny Tenorio (71), and Manny Alvarez (71.20). Each won a Western Union beach chair and cap and $10 CDMA wireless prepaid Docomo phonecard.

Only the players inside the Top 10 got prizes.

Jess Wabol was 11th with his net of 71.40.

The 3.60-handicapper shot the day's lowest nine in the front with a 35 but came up with 40 in the back for a gross 75.

In the low gross prizes per flight, Nick Sablan had a 71 (35-36) in the Championship Flight, but finished 15th overall with a handicap of -1.20 for a net 72.40.

Manny Tenorio had also 71 in A Flight, J.J. Atalig made a 76 in Flight B, and Juan Tenorio submitted an 81 in Flight C.

Laolao Bay's Mr. Bae won in he nearest to the pin in hole No. 13, and took 50 percent of the pot collected.

A total of 80 players participated for the event.

Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero, who is running for governor in the November elections, said the fundraiser is also a way of giving supporters time to have fun.

His runningmate, Joseph Norita Camacho, thanked all the participants for turning out for the day.

Guerrero and Camacho recently arrived from a campaign sorte in the U.S. mainland and Hawaii.

"We traveled all the way down from Salem, Oregon, San Diego, Boise, and Portland just to see you here. This is a fundraiser for us and we don't want to be absent while the tournament is going on," said Norita.

Both had the chance to ask the over a hundred people to vote for them in November.

Camacho said the proceeds would help put some gasoline into the campaign.

REBELS

From Page 28

The win was a nice present to Runnin' Rebels' head coach Tyrone Omar, who is on sick leave. Elias Rangamar called the shots in his absence.

The Sixers' lady player Roxanne Duenas knocked down 18 points, while Joe Ada added 17. The loss was the team's first loss in three starts.

Earlier in the game, Sixers key player Mathew Duenas walked out of the court following a bench technical call from referee Gilbert Espinosa.

The Runnin' Rebels are now tied with the Sparks and the Sonics with identical 3-0 win-loss marks.

In the first game, the Sonics nailed that third win after defeating Rollers 1, 62-45.

The Sonics broke loose from a 24-25 halftime deficit to score their third straight victory and dealt the Rollers their first setback (1-2).

Tristan Eclanea led the Sonics with 19 points while Bryan Ajoste had 14.

John Maratita and Jim Brel scored 14 and 11, respectively, for the Rollers.

Last Friday, continuation of the Monday game between the G-Stars and Rollers 1 was indefinitely postponed with no apparent reason.

A number of players from both sides arrived at the Ada Gym only to find out that the game was cancelled.

They said they were never informed about the cancellation.

Both teams coaches, Eric Atalig for the G-Stars and Joe Diaz for the Rollers, also did not show up.

Organizers were also unaccounted for during the designated time.

The game was suspended and reset for Friday due to the malfunctioning 24-second shot clock.

The G-Stars, who were gunning for their third straight win, were leading by 15 points when the game was suspended. The Rollers carry a 1-1 record.

First Game

Sonics 62 – Eclanea 19, Ajoste, 14, Won Jeon 9, Win Jeon, 4, Salas 4, Feria 3, Cadiang 2, Oei 2, Darag 2.

Rollers 45 – Maratita 14, Brel 11, Lisua 6, Kaipat 6, Metran 5, Danas 3.

Scoring by halves: 24-25, 62-45.

Second Game

Runnin' Rebels 69 – Ichihara 25, Kiyoshi 22, Nogis 10, Aughenbauch 8, Maranas 2, Diaz 2.

Sixers 68 – R. Duenas 18, Dad 17, Benavente 14, M. Duenas 4, Agtarap 4, Castro 3, J. Duenas 2, Manaluz 2, C. Duenas 2, Salas 2.

Scoring by halves: 26-30, 69-68.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	91	52	.636	–
Boston	82	58	.586	7 1/2
Tampa Bay	72	69	.511	18
Toronto	65	77	.458	25 1/2
Baltimore	58	83	.411	32

Central Division

Detroit	75	66	.532	–
Chicago	71	72	.497	5
Minnesota	70	72	.493	5 1/2
Cleveland	61	80	.433	14
Kansas City	56	86	.394	19 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	85	56	.603	–
Texas	79	61	.564	5 1/2
Seattle	73	69	.514	12 1/2
Oakland	64	77	.454	21

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	80	60	.571	–
Florida	76	66	.535	5
Atlanta	74	68	.521	7
New York	63	79	.444	18
Washington	49	93	.345	32

Central Division

St. Louis	84	59	.587	–
Chicago	72	68	.514	10 1/2
Houston	70	72	.493	13 1/2
Milwaukee	68	73	.482	15
Cincinnati	64	78	.451	19 1/2
Pittsburgh	54	86	.386	28 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	85	58	.594	–
Colorado	82	61	.573	3
San Francisco	76	66	.535	8 1/2
San Diego	64	79	.448	21
Arizona	62	81	.434	23

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 7, Chicago Cubs 5
Atlanta 7, St. Louis 6
N.Y. Mets 10, Philadelphia 9
Florida 11, Washington 3
Houston 4, Pittsburgh 2
Milwaukee 9, Arizona 2
L.A. Dodgers 9, San Francisco 1
San Diego 3, Colorado 2, 10 innings
Baltimore 7, N.Y. Yankees 3
Oakland 4, Minnesota 2
Chicago White Sox 4, L.A. Angels 3, 10 innings
Cleveland 13, Kansas City 6
Toronto 8, Detroit 6
Boston 9, Tampa Bay, 5 innings
Seattle 8, Texas 3

BMW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

LEMONT, Illinois (AP) – Scores Saturday from the BMW Championship, a $7.5 million U.S. PGA Tour playoff event on 7,616-yard, par-71 Dubsdread Course at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club:

THIRD ROUND

Tiger Woods	68-67-62–197
Brandt Snedeker	69-69-66–204
Marc Leishman	67-69-68–204
Matt Kuchar	71-68-66–205
Padraig Harrington	68-68-69–205
John Senden	70-70-66–206
Mark Wilson	69-66-71–206
Jim Furyk	70-70-67–207
Luke Donald	70-69-68–207
Sergio Garcia	71-68-68–207
Bubba Watson	69-68-70–207
Ian Poulter	69-71-68–208
David Toms	68-71-69–208
Sean O'Hair	70-68-70–208
Zach Johnson	73-65-70–208
Bo Van Pelt	67-69-72–208
Rory Sabbatini	66-70-72–208
Kevin Na	72-72-65–209
Kevin Sutherland	75-67-67–209
Phil Mickelson	71-69-70–210
Bill Haas	71-68-71–210
Anthony Kim	69-69-72–210

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

Sparks	3	0
Sonics	3	0
Runnin' Rebels	3	0
G-Stars	2	0
Sixers	2	1
670 Rollers 2	1	1
Rollers 1	1	2
Saints	1	2
Ol'Aces	0	2
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	2
Hi-5	0	2
Celtics	0	3

GOVT/BIZ STANDINGS

IT&E	7	0
Hyatt	2	0
Docomo	3	1
Tinian	3	1
MBI	4	2
CHC	3	2
DCCA	2	3
PSS	3	4
BOG	3	4
Customs	1	2
CPA	0	5
ARFF	0	7

The Week in Sports

Anglers, paddlers, netters shine

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Fishermen and ping-pong and tennis players all shone in tournaments held recently and thus naturally dominated sports headlines this past week.

The Budweiser 17th Annual All-Micronesia Billfish Tournament held last Sept. 5 and 6 in Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands saw a crew made up mostly of anglers from Saipan rule the event.

Skippered by Saipan businessman Gary Sword with Jon Deloso of Continental Airlines and RMI Finance Minister Jack Ading serving as crew, Team CNMI accumulated 981 points to dominate the two-day fishaton.

Its biggest catch came when Sword and company reeled in a 552-lb. marlin that proved to be the prize of the derby.

Youth netters from Saipan also made their home islands proud after taking home five medals—three of them gold—in the Quality Cup Junior Tennis Tournament held Sept. 5 and 6 in Guam.

Chris Park, Sakura Imaya, and Gio Hur all struck gold in the off-island tennis tourney. Park lorded it over the boys' 12-and-under singles division after shutting out Sean Saltzgaber in the finals, 8-0.

Imaya won not one but two gold medals. She first beat Seki Kana, 8-0, in the girls' 10-and-under singles finals before teaming up with Hur to take home the girls' 10-and-under doubles tiara via walkover.

Tinian, meanwhile, retained the championship in the 12th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament after outclassing host Saipan, 35-29, last Sept. 5 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Team captain Mark Ma and Robin Lu led Tinian's successful championship defense, as they went undefeated in eight games. Other members of the Tinian Team were Su Yong Dong, Robin Lu, Liang Wei Bin, Alfred Yue, Bright Liu, and Charlie Cheng.

Not all was good news last week though, as CNMI junior tennis player Ji Hoon Heo lost his debut in the YangGu International Junior Championships-Week 1 2009 held in KangWon-Do, South Korea.

Heo lost to Korea's Sang Yob Kim in straight sets, 4-6, 3-6, to foil the former's bid for Junior ITF ranking points.

Daily training sessions of the Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan in Marpi have also been cancelled for now after Division of Environmental Quality and Bureau of Environmental Health suspended its operations because of low chlorine levels.

The CNMI will also probably have the leanest delegation to the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Cook Islands with only Jess Wabol of golf and Tinian's Joshua Manglona of triathlon representing the islands in the quadrennial event.

The CNMI was supposed to send eight athletes to the Games but golf trimmed its delegation from five to one and va'a canoe pulled out after Eddie Johnson failed to secure a leave of absence from his employer.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White also reported that the start of the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau has been moved to Aug. 1, 2010 from its original July 11 opening.

White said the opening of classes in Palau began late and will finish in the last week of July next year, thus schools, which will be used to accommodate off-island delegates, will only be available in August.

In golf, Vince Rosario carded a net score of 69 to win Saipan Golf Association's September Ace of the Month Tournament held last Sept. 6 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Results of the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball, 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League, 2009 IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament, and Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball League also made it to the newspaper last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Skipper Gary Sword of Saipan and crewmen Jon Deloso of Continental Airlines and RMI Finance Minister Jack Ading of Team CNMI are all smiles after reeling in the 17th Annual All-Micronesia Billfish Tournament's top marlin.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ji Hoon Heo, seen here returning a shot in a local tournament, is in Korea for two Junior ITF events.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Chris Park in action in the Quality Cup Junior Tennis Tournament in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian players receive the championship trophy after beating Saipan, 35-29, in the 12th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament held last Sept. 5 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sakura Imaya and Gio Hur pose after their walkover victory in the finals of the girls' 10-and-under doubles division.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mark Ma of Tinian won the men's singles trophy after not dropping a set in the tournament.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jess Wabol will be the CNMI's lone golfer in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jonny's IT&E Voyager's players pose after beating VFW Sentinel in the Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball League last Tuesday at Jonny's Bar.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Vince Rosario carded a net score of 69 to win Saipan Golf Association's September Ace of the Month Tournament held last Sept. 6 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joshua Manglona will carry the islands' hopes in the triathlon event of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Anglers, paddlers, netters shine

Fishermen and ping-pong and tennis players all shone in tournaments held recently and thus naturally dominated sports headlines this past week. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bizarre ending to Serena's title defense

Serena Williams walked toward the line judge, screaming, cursing and shaking a ball in the official's direction, threatening to "shove it down" her throat. 24

Jack, Mami retain Banzai titles

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Aided by perfect weather, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Berger successfully negotiated the new and longer course of the 4th Annual Powerade Banzai Cliff Memorial Off-Road Half-Marathon and Fun Run last Saturday in Marpi.

The two veteran runners also won last year's third staging of the event.

Kabiriel, who just came from a successful stint in the Oceania Championships in Australia two weeks ago, completed the 13.1-mile race from Banzai Cliff via downhill and uphill trails in a time of 1:36:09 to rule the men's division.

"It's a completely difference course this time. It was nice. Everybody liked it. The weather was perfect," he said.

Kabiriel, who along with Matt Mancao and Ronald Villafria broke away from the main pack after the radar station, finished last year's shorter course in 1:31.51

With about two miles to the finish line, Kabiriel pulled away from Mancao and Villafria and never looked back.

The win was a big morale boost for Kabiriel's preparation for the half mara-

See JACK on Page 26

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, left, and Mamiko Berger approach the finish line of the 4th Annual Powerade Banzai Cliff Memorial Off-Road Half-Marathon and Fun Run last Saturday.

Runnin' Rebels eke out 69-68 win over Sixers

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The undermanned Runnin' Rebels eked out a 69-68 win over the Sixers last Thursday night to create a three-way tie on top in the Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Josh Kiyoshi calmly sank his two free throws with 9.4 seconds remaining to lift the Runin' Rebels to their third win in as many games.

Before Kiyoshi went to the foul line, the Sixers had the chance for the go-ahead win but Aaron Agtarap muffed his second free throw after his first shot tied the count at 68-all.

Ryan Ichihara topped all scorers with 25, while Kiyoshi finished with 22 as the Runnin' Rebels engaged the Sonics in a seesaw battle with only six players showing up for the night.

See REBELS on Page 26

'Marpi pool shutdown was inevitable'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good, right, conducts training for the younger swimmers of the club in the Marianas Resort and Spa pool.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The closing of the 32-year-old Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi has forced the hand of the island's two swim clubs to look for alternative sites for their training.

While Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan is temporarily using the Marianas Resort and Spa pool for its swimmers' daily training, the Saipan Swim Club is looking at tapping the facilities of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan for its use.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said his kids are currently using the main pool and diving pool of Marianas Resort

He said while the Marianas Resort pool is better than nothing, the suspension of operations of the 50-meter Kan Pacific facility is a big loss to his swimmers. But Kimura understands that its long-delayed repairs will ultimately help his kids.

For his part, Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good said the shut down of the Kan Pacific pool was inevitable.

"The pool had been limping along for the past few years. It is a testament to Gary's (de Guzman) ability to keep

See MARPI on Page 26

Rogolifoi tops Juan 'Pan' fundraiser

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

NMASA Hall of Famer Tony Rogolifoi bagged his first ever golf championship in the Juan Pan-Joe Camacho Fundraising Golf Tournament held last Saturday and took home a roundtrip ticket to Manila.

Rogolifoi carded the day's lowest net score of 66.80 to top the event held at the west course of Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman.

The 19.20-handicapper shot 41 in the front and 45 in the back for a gross of 86.

With the first prize, Rogolifoi would

See ROGOLIFOI on Page 26

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Gubernatorial candidate Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero's runningmate, Joseph No. Camacho, congratulates Tony Rogolifoi for topping the tandem's golf fundraiser held last Saturday at the west course of Laolao Bay Golf Resort.